

The Edward de Bono Institute  
for Creative Thinking and Innovation

Annual Report  
2023/2024



Creativity



Innovation  
Management



Entrepreneurship



Futures Studies



Critical Thinking

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## 1.0 SUMMARY OF ENTITY PROFILE

### 1.1 The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation

The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation (formerly ‘for the Design and Development of Thinking’) was established at the University of Malta in 1992 in collaboration with Professor Edward de Bono.

At its inception, the core focus of the Institute was to teach Professor de Bono’s thinking tools at the University of Malta. However, as the Institute progressed, it expanded and diversified its lecturing, research and outreach portfolio to cover five interrelated subject areas, namely creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, futures studies and critical thinking.

***Creativity*** refers to the generation of novel and useful ideas which, in today’s increasingly competitive and turbulent environment, are necessary for survival and prosperity. In this respect, creativity and creative capabilities have come to represent indispensable resources and capacities, enabling individuals to identify opportunities and solve problems. Contrary to popular belief, creativity is a skill and, just like any other skill, it may be developed and deployed through consistent practice and use of multiple creativity tools, techniques and frameworks.

***Innovation*** refers to the successful implementation of creative ideas to produce something of value or to reap commercial gains and competitive advantage. Innovation relates not only to science and technology, but to the introduction of new or improved products, services and processes in any context or industry. Innovation is a necessary step in the creative process, as the benefits of creativity may only emerge if there is a system in place to manage the implementation of ideas.

***Entrepreneurship*** is generally associated with starting up and running one’s own business, which leads to job creation, innovation and economic growth. Beyond that, however, the European Commission has stressed the importance of cultivating an entrepreneurial culture or mindset and has listed “a sense of initiative and entrepreneurship” as a key competence for life. The entrepreneurship key competence involves the knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable individuals to generate and implement creative ideas, to be self-confident, autonomous and proactive, to plan and execute projects, and to act in socially responsible ways. This entrepreneurship key competence is important not only for those wishing to start up and run their own business, but also for those seeking employment or a professional career.

***Futures Studies – or Foresight*** – involves taking a leap into the distant future to develop scenarios and visions of how the world might turn out to be, with the intention of catalysing present actions to either arrive at a desirable future or to mitigate unfavourable circumstances. A number of foresight methodologies are applied in the areas of policy (ICT, science and technology, environment, health, education and energy) and private organisations (corporate foresight). Complementing foresight is creativity, where creative capabilities are generally utilised in order to develop future scenarios, generate novel ideas and alternative realities or possibilities. In addition, the implementation of policies to arrive at a desirable future generally depends on innovation management and entrepreneurship skills, which are applied to implement desired policies.

**Critical Thinking** refers to a purposeful, reasoned and goal directed mode of thinking. This type of thinking is necessary when making judgements to make decisions and resolve problems or interpret situations. It involves the understanding, analysis and evaluation of situations that may avoid subjectivity. Critical thinking is a skill that can be learned and developed through deliberate practice. This mode of thinking can enhance skills at a personal and professional level.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

### **Address:**

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University of Malta  
63, Esperanto Street  
Msida MSD 2011  
Malta

### **Website, Social Media:**

[www.um.edu.mt/create](http://www.um.edu.mt/create)  
[www.facebook.com/loTM.um](https://www.facebook.com/loTM.um)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/edward-de-bono-institute-36b6bb34/>

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[instituteofthinking@um.edu.mt](mailto:instituteofthinking@um.edu.mt)

### **Telephone Numbers:**

+356 2340 2434 / +356 2340 3912

## 2.0 STAFF PROFILE

During the academic year 2023–2024, the Edward de Bono Institute was composed of five full-time resident academic staff, one part-time visiting academic staff, one part-time research support officer, and two administrative staff. A number of casual part-time lecturers also contributed to the Institute's teaching activities throughout the academic year. Dr Margaret Mangion was promoted to Associate Professor at the Council Meeting held in June 2024.

### 2.1 Full-Time Resident Academic Staff



**Professor Margaret Mangion**  
B.Psy., P.G.C.E., M.B.A.,  
D.Soc.Sci.(Leic.)  
Director, Associate  
Professor



**Professor Petra Caruana Dingli**  
B.A., B.A.(Hons), M.A.,  
D.Phil.(Oxon),  
M.B.A.(Maas.)  
Associate Professor



**Professor Sandra M. Dingli**  
B.A., B.A.(Hons), M.A.,  
Ph.D.(Dunelm)  
Professor



**Professor Leonie Baldacchino**  
B.Psy.(Hons), M.A.,  
Ph.D.(Warw.)  
Associate Professor



**Dr Lisa Pace**  
B.Sc., M.Sc.,  
Ph.D.(Manc.)  
Senior Lecturer

The full profiles of resident academic members of staff are available on the University website.

## 2.2 Part-time Visiting Academic and Research Support Staff



**Ms Natalie Swaine Nwoko**

B.A.(Hons), M.A., PG Cert. in Therapeutic Play Skills  
(Cant.)

Visiting Assistant Lecturer

## 2.3 Administrative Staff



**Ms Josianne Sciberras**  
Administration  
Specialist



**Mr Matthew Tonna**  
Gilford  
Administrator II

## 3.0 Learning and Teaching Profile

### 3.1 INSTITUTE COURSES

During the academic year 2023–2024, the Edward de Bono Institute offered two of its three core courses, namely, the Diploma in Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (part-time evening), and the Ph.D. degree, where researchers have the opportunity to explore Creativity, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Foresight and Critical Thinking at a Doctoral level. The Master in Creativity and Innovation (full-time and part-time) did not open this year. Applicants who enrolled for any of the Institute's courses were eligible for financial subsidies through the 'Get Qualified' Scheme offered by the Ministry for Education and Employment. In addition to the Institute's courses, the Institute offered several undergraduate study units that formed part of a variety of courses at the University of Malta.

#### 3.1.1 *Master in Creativity and Innovation*

The Master in Creativity and Innovation is an interdisciplinary programme designed to enable participants to expand their perception, identify opportunities, employ creative skills, develop ideas individually and in teams, sustain a creative climate, manage innovation, and apply foresight methodologies to create future scenarios. The Master programme promotes imaginative, flexible and practical thought and action, and improves the ability to respond practically and creatively to problems and opportunities. This programme attracts international and national professionals from a broad range of disciplines.

The Master in Creativity and Innovation is available both on a full-time and a part-time basis, with all lectures held during the daytime. The duration for full-time students is three semesters while that for part-time students is six semesters. The programme comprises a total of 90 ECTS, of which 60 ECTS are assigned to the taught component, while 30 ECTS are assigned to the dissertation. Students who successfully complete the 60 ECTS assigned to the taught component with an average mark of at least 50% and do not proceed with the course, or having not successfully completed the dissertation, are awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Creativity and Innovation.

Further information about the Master programme, including entry requirements and the full programme of studies, may be accessed through the University of Malta's online 'Course Finder' ([www.um.edu.mt/courses](http://www.um.edu.mt/courses)). The study units include:

- IOT5007 Foresight Techniques for Creativity and Innovation (4 ECTS)
- IOT5019 Creative and Critical Thinking: Theory and Practice (10 ECTS)
- IOT5029 Innovation in Organisations (5 ECTS)
- IOT5033 Entrepreneurship and Business Venturing (4 ECTS)
- IOT5032 Leadership for Managing Change and Innovation (4 ECTS) – *elective*

IOT5037 Innovation Adoption and Diffusion (4 ECTS) – elective  
IOT5038 Creativity and Innovation in the Cultural and Creative Industries (4 ECTS) – *elective*  
IOT5004 Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods (6 ECTS)  
IOT5028 Creativity, Innovation and New Digital Technologies (5 ECTS)  
IOT5034 Strategic and Entrepreneurial Decision-Making (4 ECTS)  
IOT5039 Integrating Creativity and Innovation in Marketing Concepts (6 ECTS)  
IOT5006 Strategic Innovative Design for Enhancing Business Performance (4 ECTS) – *elective*  
IOT5024 Creativity: Psychological Perspectives (4 ECTS) – *elective*  
IOT5031 Dissertation (30 ECTS)

### **3.1.2 Diploma in Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

The part-time Diploma in Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship caters for individuals who are interested in furthering their education in a flexible manner. Through this Diploma, participants are provided with a pragmatic knowledge-based approach towards creativity, idea generation, innovation, innovation management and entrepreneurship. The knowledge and skills taught through the Diploma are vital for establishing and maintaining an organisation and its operations, for enhancing employment prospects and advancing careers. Upon successful completion of this Diploma, participants will be able to recognise the need for organisational change, identify opportunities, systematically solve problems, and implement innovation. The Diploma in Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship is composed of a total of 60 ECTS and spans a period of four semesters (two academic years) on a part-time basis. Lectures are generally held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 17.00 to 20.00 to enable students to balance their commitments and education.

Further information about the Diploma programme, including entry requirements and the full programme of studies, may be accessed through the University of Malta's online 'Course Finder' ([www.um.edu.mt/courses](http://www.um.edu.mt/courses)). The study units include:

IOT1008 An Introduction to Creativity (4 ECTS)  
IOT1010 Introduction to Entrepreneurship (4 ECTS)  
IOT1014 Leadership and Innovation in Organisations (4 ECTS)  
IOT1030 Creativity and Innovation in Digital Technologies (2 ECTS)  
LIN1063 Academic Reading and Writing in English (2 ECTS)  
IOT1002 Psychology of Creativity (4 ECTS)  
IOT1009 A Toolkit for Thinking Out of the Box (4 ECTS)  
IOT1022 Academic Research Methods, Tools and Proposal Writing (6 ECTS)  
IOT1016 A Culture for Creativity in Organisations (4 ECTS)  
IOT1018 Entrepreneurship: From Ideas to Action (4 ECTS)  
IOT1020 Funding Issues in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (4 ECTS)  
IOT1024 Understanding the Cultural and Creative Industries (4 ECTS)  
IOT1006 Critical Thinking (2 ECTS)  
IOT1012 Thinking About the Future: An Introduction to Foresight (4 ECTS)  
IOT1028 An Introduction to Intellectual Property (4 ECTS)



### **3.1.3 Ph.D. in Creativity, Innovation, Entrepreneurship or Foresight**

The Edward de Bono Institute offers a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in the areas of Creativity, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Foresight or Critical Thinking, which is available to candidates who are appropriately qualified in at least one of the Institute's domains of specialisation listed above. The Ph.D. programme is available to candidates on both a full-time and a part-time basis, with the programme's duration ranging from 3 to 4 years full-time, or 6 to 8 years part-time. While prospective candidates may submit an application to enrol in the Institute's Ph.D. programme at any point throughout the academic year, they are advised to contact the Institute ([instituteofthinking@um.edu.mt](mailto:instituteofthinking@um.edu.mt)) to discuss their research proposal and to identify a suitable supervisor prior to submitting their formal application.

Further information concerning the University of Malta's Doctoral Programme may be accessed through the Doctoral School's website ([www.um.edu.mt/doctorschool](http://www.um.edu.mt/doctorschool)).

## **3.2 ADDITIONAL STUDY UNITS OFFERED BY THE INSTITUTE**

During the academic year 2023-2024, The Edward de Bono Institute offered the following study-units to a variety of Faculties, Institutes and Centres at the University of Malta:

IOT 3110 Creative and Critical Thinking for Public Officers (4 ECTS)  
IOT 2008 Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Practical Approaches (4 ECTS)  
IOT 2002 Communication and Innovation (4 ECTS)  
IOT 2003 Foresight – A Tool for Scenarios and Visions (4 ECTS)  
IOT 2005 Leadership and Organisational Innovation (2 ECTS)  
IOT 1002 Psychology of Creativity (4 ECTS)  
IOT 1006 Critical Thinking (2 ECTS)  
IOT 1008 An Introduction to Creativity (4 ECTS)  
IOT 1009 A Toolkit for Thinking out of the Box (4 ECTS)  
IOT 1100 Ideas and Innovation (4 ECTS)

These study-units enable students from different Faculties, Institutes and Centres to benefit from transferable skills and knowledge concerning creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and foresight. The aim of these study-units is to provide students with key competencies intended to stimulate entrepreneurship, catalyse forward-thinking mind-frames, provoke creativity, and inform students on the methods used to transform creative ideas to innovative outputs, thereby improving their future career prospects. Further information about the study-units offered by the Edward de Bono Institute can be accessed through the Institute website (<https://www.um.edu.mt/create/studyingwithus/>).

Moreover, the Institute's resident academic staff delivered all or part of the following study-units offered by different Faculties, Institutes and Centres at the University of Malta:

CIS3186 Mobile Device Programming. [3 sessions out of 5 ECTS] *Prof. Margaret Mangion*  
DOC6010 An Introduction to Critical and Creative Thinking. [one session] *Prof. Margaret Mangion.*

ENG2092 Travel Writing (2 ECTS). *Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli.*

ENG2096 The Pre-Raphaelites and their Circle (2 ECTS). *Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli.*

ENG2042 The English Novel in the Later Nineteenth Century: Henry James (2 ECTS). *Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli.*

ENG2176 Victorian Poetry (2 ECTS). *Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli.*

ENG3035 Shakespeare in Context (2 ECTS). *Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli.*

ENG5052 Writing the Mediterranean. [one session] *Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli.*

GDS5006 Gender and Culture. [one session] *Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli.*

HSC5123 Critical/Creative Thinking in Ethical Applications to Health Care. [5 sessions out of 10 ECTS] *Prof. Margaret Mangion*

HSC2001 Critical Thinking in Ethical Applications for Bioscientists. [two sessions out of 4 ECTS] *Mr Gordon Pisani*

MNH5012 Interdisciplinary Understanding and Approaches in Mental Health Care, Rehabilitation, Community Care and Recovery. [one session out of 10 ECTS] *Prof. Margaret Mangion*

PHI2002 The Philosophy of Mind. (4 ECTS) *Prof. Sandra M. Dingli.*

In February 2024, IOT1100 was offered remotely to students from universities in Turkey in collaboration with the International Office and the Turkish Embassy in Malta. This was delivered by Prof. Margaret Mangion, Prof. Sandra Dingli and Mr Sandro Pinto Sant Anna

### 3.3 STUDENT INFORMATION

#### 3.3.1 Overview

- Students following the Master in Creativity and Innovation continued to work on their dissertations throughout the academic year, supervised by Institute staff.
- The evening Diploma in Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship had a cohort of nine students, who completed their course in June 2024 and who will graduate in November 2024.
- The Institute currently has three Ph.D. candidates. One of the students is an international student from Brazil, and two are Maltese.

#### 3.3.2 Doctoral candidates

Ph.D. students are offered support and guidance by the University's Doctoral School through various initiatives, such as workshops for personal and professional development, support and advice, and an opportunity to present their work at a yearly symposium. The workshops are designed by the Doctoral School in collaboration with various academics with the aim of providing Ph.D. candidates with the professional skills needed to promote wellbeing and professional growth, while also acting as a point of reference for procedures and milestones.

### 3.4 DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS AWARDED

Students who successfully completed the Institute's Diploma in Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Postgraduate Diploma in Creativity and Innovation, the Master in Creativity and Innovation, and the doctoral programme, graduated in ceremonies held in November 2023 and March 2024.



### 3.4.1 Degrees and Diplomas Awarded in 2023–24

Master in Creativity and Innovation March 2024	PG Diploma in Creativity and Innovation November 2023	PhD March 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acocella Rocco</li> <li>• Camenzuli Diane</li> <li>• Malacic Veronika</li> <li>• Pisani Jessica</li> <li>• Scerri Sarah</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falzon Luca</li> <li>• Shanableh Izabella</li> <li>• Scheidsteger Jan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nonaka Izumi</li> </ul>

### 3.5 MASTER DISSERTATIONS SUBMITTED IN 2023–2024

Name of Student	Dissertation Title	Supervisor and Examiners
David Borg	Foresight for risk management in the context of acute healthcare in Malta	Supervisor: Dr Lisa Pace Chair: Prof. Margaret Mangion External: Prof. Sophie Thunus Internal: Prof. Leonie Baldacchino

		Internal: Prof. Sandra Dingli
Kelly Caruana	Exploring employee creativity through transformational leadership: The role of trust and job autonomy in the disability sector in Malta	Supervisor: Prof. Margaret Mangion Chair: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli External: Prof. Tudor Rickards Internal: Prof. Sandra Dingli Internal: Dr Lisa Pace
Ivan Ebejer	From corporate responsibility to opportunity: Corporate impact venturing as a driver of social innovation	Supervisor: Dr Lisa Pace Chair: Prof. Margaret Mangion External: Dr Katherine Barker Internal: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli Internal: Prof. Sandra Dingli
MohitdeepSingh Gandhi	Sustainable construction and demolition waste (CDW) management in Malta: A foresight study.	Supervisor: Dr Lisa Pace Chair: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli External: Prof. Adina Cocu Internal: Prof. Ruben Paul Borg Internal: Prof. Sandra Dingli
Christian Grima	Creativity development undergraduate engineering courses at the University of Malta	Supervisor: Prof. Margaret Mangion Chair: Prof. Sandra Dingli External: Dr Helen Georgiou Internal: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli Internal: Dr Lisa Pace
Madeleine Gruppetta	Creative frustration in classically trained singers	Supervisor: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli Chair: Dr Lisa Pace External: Prof. Andreia Valqueresma Internal: Prof. Margaret Mangion Internal: Dr John Galea
Anna Hauser	Creativity in haute cuisine: Exploring the role of socio-cultural and material constraints in culinary creation	Supervisor: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli Chair: Dr Lisa Pace External: Prof. Marc Steirand Internal: Prof. Sandra Dingli Internal: Prof. Margaret Mangion
Martina Mizzi	Digital innovation in ground handling operations: An exploratory study.	Supervisor: Dr Lisa Pace Chair: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli External: Dr Steven Pattison Internal: Prof. Sandra Dingli Internal: Prof. Margaret Mangion

Fabian Paila	Think like a fraudster to catch a fraudster: Exploring the use of storytelling to deter fraud.	Supervisor: Prof. Margaret Mangion Chair: Dr Lisa Pace External: Prof. Vlad Glaveanu Internal: Prof. Leonie Baldacchino Internal: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli
Matthew Psaila	The creative work environment in 5-star hotels in Malta: An exploratory study	Supervisor: Prof. Sandra Dingli Chair: Prof. Margaret Mangion External: Prof. Tudor Rickards Internal: Prof. Leonie Baldacchino Internal: Dr Lisa Pace

## 4.0 ACHIEVEMENTS PROFILE

### 4.1 PUBLISHED WORKS

Beghetto, R. A., & Mangion, M. (2023). Beyond ‘cold’ creative metacognition: Toward a more integrated framework. *Physics of Life Reviews*, 47, 200–202.

Borg Preca, C., Baldacchino, L., Briguglio, M., & Mangion, M. (2023). Are STEM students creative thinkers? *Journal of Intelligence*, 11(6), 106.

Buhagiar, K., Pace, L. A., & Dingli, S. M. (2024). Defining attributes of boutique hotels: a systematic literature review. *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Insights*, 7 (1), 207–226.

Caruana Dingli, P. (Ed.) (2023). *The first church of Valletta: Our Lady of Victory*. Din l-Art Ħelwa.

Caruana Dingli, P. (2023). William Morris: art, politics and the context of creativity. In A. Debattista & M. T. Vassallo (Eds.), *The many faces of politics: The different faces of politics in literature and music* (pp. 44–53). Routledge.

Caruana Dingli, P. (2024). Between Malta and Palermo: Re-creating the life story of Geltruda Cumbo. In J. Farrugia (Ed.), *Fuga Mundi* (pp. 59–87). Faculty of Theology, University of Malta.

Caruana Dingli, P. (2024). The Garden of Rest (Ġnien il-Mistrieħ): A nineteenth-century Protestant cemetery on the Floriana bastions. In J. Abela & G. Privitelli (Eds.), *Floriana & il-Furjanizi* (pp. 189–199). Kite Publications.

Diacono, S., & Baldacchino, L. (2024). Identifying entrepreneurial opportunities in the circular economy. *Journal of Management & Organization*, 30(1), 165–187.

Dingli, S. M., Cocu, A., & Pecheanu, E. (2024). Innovative green practices to address current challenges. *LUT Scientific and Expertise Publications*, 1–18.

Mangion, M. (2024). Community engaged learning: Enhancing marketing education through experiential approaches with real clients. In M. A. Eklund & K. W. Graham (Eds.), *Practical applications of experiential and community-engaged learning methods in business: High-impact teaching practices in business education* (Vol. 1).

Mangion, M. & Valquearesma, A. (2024). Getting ready for the post-Anthropocene. Hopeful possibilities?. In *Creative education: Sociocultural, critical and decolonial perspectives*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Mangion, M. (2024). Creativity. A skill for lifelong learning and how to nurture it in the workplace. In *Creative education: Sociocultural, critical and decolonial perspectives*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Mangion, M., Camilleri, G., & Vella, M. (2024). Self-perceptions in difficult times: A study highlighting how creative self-efficacy of teachers is influenced by perceived stress, hope and critical thinking disposition. *European Journal of Education*, 00, e12700.

Pace, L. A. (2024). Sustainability-oriented innovation in tourism destinations: Born ready or bred for success?. In T. Walker, E. Demir, G. Machnik-Kekesi, & V. Kelly (Eds.), *Sustainable Tourism: Frameworks, Practices, and Innovative Solutions* (pp. 13–32). Springer International Publishing.

Pace, L. A., Morales-Caselles, C. (2024). Sustainability-oriented innovation in blue economy sectors: Pathways toward specialization in island territories of the western Mediterranean basin. In Leal Filho, W., Salvia, A.L., Eustachio, J.P.P., Dinis, M.A.P. (Eds.) *Handbook of Sustainable Blue Economy*. Springer.

Pace, L. A., Saritas, O., & Deidun, A. (2023). Exploring future research and innovation directions for a sustainable blue economy. *Marine Policy*, 148, 105433.

Pace, L. A., Borch, K., Deidun, A. (2023). Bridging knowledge gaps towards 2030: the use of foresight for the strategic management of a sustainable blue economy. *Sustainability*, 15(13), 10026.

## 4.2 FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Baldacchino, L. (forthcoming). Art, culture, and wellbeing: Reaping the rewards of creativity. In M. Briguglio, N. Czap & K. Laffan (Eds.). *Wellbeing and policy: Evidence for action*. Routledge.

Baldacchino, L. & Sasseti, S. (forthcoming). The effects of coping strategies on entrepreneurs' psychological well-being under uncertainty. *Strategic Change*.

Caruana Dingli, P. (forthcoming). William Morris and creativity in practice. In E. Mason & T. Graf (Eds.), *What is literature for?*. Routledge.

Dingli, S. (forthcoming). Fake News and Lateral Thinking: Navigating the erosion of Truth. In *Intangibles in the knowledge economy*. Springer Nature.

Dingli, S., Cocu, A., Pecleanu, E. (forthcoming). The InnoGreen Project's Green Business Innovation Canvas: Adopting innovative green practices. In *Intangibles in the Knowledge Economy*. Springer Nature.

Mangion, M., Baldacchino, L., & Dingli, S. M. (forthcoming). Studying creativity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Our experience at the Edward de Bono Institute. In G. Puccio, C. McKayle, A. Lohiser, & F. Hertel (Eds.), *Creativity programs in institutions of higher education*. Palgrave Macmillan.

#### 4.3 CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Baldacchino, L. (May 2024). Training entrepreneurial intuition. Paper presented at the University of Malta Research Expo, Mediterranean Conference Centre.

Baldacchino, L., Mangion, M., & Briguglio, M. (2024). Predictors of creative career aspirations among secondary school students in Malta. Paper presented at the BEING SEA-EU Conference. Valletta, Malta.

Camenzuli, D. & Mangion, M. (2024). Perceived burnout and creative self-efficacy: A qualitative inquiry among mental health professionals. Paper presented at the Creativity Conference (online), South Oregon University, USA.

Caruana Dingli, P. (Sept 2024). Creating images of women in the works of Christina Rossetti. Paper presented at the Power of the Word conference in Rome, Italy.

Cocu, A., Pecleanu, E., Susnea, I., Istrate, A. & Dingli, S. (Sept 2024). Business models in sustainable enterprises: Comparative analysis from selected European countries. Paper presented at the conference on resilient and sustainable economies, Polish Association of Environmental and Natural Resources, Sept 2024.

Cocu, A., Pecleanu, E., Susnea, I., Istrate, A., Dingli, S.M. (Sept 2024). Development of digital content for green, sustainable and innovative entrepreneurship education. Paper presented at 2024 international conference on Interactive Computer Aided Learning, Tallinn, Estonia.

Dingli, S.M. (May 2024). Creating an innovative green business model canvas. Paper presented at the University of Malta Research Expo, Mediterranean Conference Centre.

Dingli, S.M., Cocu, A., & Pecleanu E. (July 2024), The InnoGreen project's green business model canvas: Adopting innovative green practices. Paper presented at the TAKE Conference, Universidade Lusofona, Lisbon, Portugal.

Dingli, S.M., Cocu, A., Pecleanu, E., (June 2024). Innovative green practices to address current challenges. Paper presented at ISPIM Innovation conference 2024, Tallin, Estonia.

Dingli, S.M. (July 2024). Fake news and lateral thinking: Navigating the erosion of truth. Paper presented at the TAKE Conference, Universidade Lusofona, Lisbon.



Pecheanu, E., Dingli, S.M., Cocu, A., Istrate, A., Susnea, I., Tudorie, C. (Nov 2024). E-learning for green and sustainable entrepreneurship education. Paer to be presented at the IEEE International Humanitarian Technologies Conference, Bari, Italy.

Mangion, M. & Valquaresma, A. (January 2024). Exploring possibility spaces: A framework for fostering creativity and imagination in primary school students. Paper presented at the Virtual Possibility Studies Conference.

Caruana Dingli, P., Dingli, S., Pace, L. (2024). Exploring the relevance of museums: Prompting future possibilities. Joint paper presented by Prof. Sandra Dingli at the Virtual Universe of Possibility Studies Conference in January 2024.

Mangion, M. (2024). Fostering creativity through self-regulation: Insights from primary school students. Paper presented (online) at the Creativity Conference, South Oregon University, USA.

Mangion, M. (2024). Self-Perceptions in Difficult Times: A Study on Creative Self-Efficacy in Educators during COVID-19. Global Creativity Initiative and Malakta International Creativity Symposium. (Finland).

Mangion, M. & Valquaresma, A., & Glaveanu, V.P. (2024). Exploring pedagogies of the possible in primary education. An experimental etudy on teacher engagement with possibility spaces: A framework for fostering creativity and imagination in primary school students. Paper presented at the Possibility Studies Conference. University of Cambridge, UK.

Mangion, M., & Baldacchino, L. (2024). The interplay between critical thinking disposition, mindfulness disposition, and creative self-concept among allied health practitioners. Paper presented at the Marconi Institute of Creativity Conference. Sardegna, Italy.

Meneses, M., Vilanova, R., Cocu, A., Varanda, M., Dingli, S., Mihalache, S. (July 2024). Cooperation to implement creative thinking and gamification for innovative online training of STEM students. Paper presented at EDULEARN 2024: 16<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies, Palma, Spain.

Sant Anna, S., Baldacchino, L., & Fabri, S. (June 2024). Motivations and intentions underlying decisions to pursue senior entrepreneurship. Paper presented at the European Academy of Management (EURAM) Annual Conference 2024.

Walaszczyk, L., & Dingli, S. (Sept 2024). Business models in sustainable enterprises: Comparative analysis from selected European countries. Paper presented at the Conference on Resilient and Sustainable Economies, Polish Association of Environmental and Natural Resources, Giby, Poland.

#### 4.4 OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Prof. Margaret Mangion contributed a chapter to the volume *Creativity for a Sustainable Future* titled Creativity in Education: Discussing the role of creativity in modern educational practice. The book was published in April 2024 to celebrate World Creativity and Innovation Week.

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli contributed an essay to the volume *Deans Manifesto: Charting Our Journey* published by retiring University deans Prof. Andrew Azzopardi and Prof. Alex Torpiano in July 2024.



Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli continued in her role as editor of the twice-yearly publication *Vigilo* published by the cultural heritage NGO Din l-Art Ħelwa. In September 2024 she also contributed the article 'Monte Cagliares: The seventeenth-century country house, chapel and garden in Rabat' (*Vigilo*, no. 59).

## 4.5 EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

### 4.5.1 *InnoGreen Erasmus+*

Prof. Sandra Dingli and Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli were involved in this project (Innovative entrepreneurs leading green businesses), which is funded by the Erasmus+ KA2 Cooperation Projects programme and entitled 'Innovative Entrepreneurs. leading green businesses' (InnoGreen). This required participation in numerous online meetings and in conducting research on various topics, including the Green Business Innovation Canvas (GBIC) as UM was a task leader for this part of this project with a number of deliverables to complete. A face-to-face third transnational project partners meeting was held on the 9–10 April 2024 in Fano, Italy, attended by Prof. Sandra Dingli.



The fourth and final transnational project partners meeting was held on 2–3 October 2024 at the project coordinator's home institution, the University 'Dunarea de Jos' of Galati in Galati, Romania, attended by Prof. Sandra Dingli and Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli. The project has been ongoing since November 2022 and will end in October 2024. The project coordinator is from the Department of Computer Science and Technology, Faculty of Automatic Control, Computing, Electrical Engineering and Electronics, University 'Dunarea de Jos' of Galati, Romania. The coordinator was also a partner in a previous Erasmus+ project, ProBM2, which ended in March

2022. The other partners are from Poland, Italy, Portugal, Austria and Switzerland. The topics which the project covers include sustainable entrepreneurship and innovative green business models. Ms Marvic Sciberras was employed as part-time Research Support Officer for the InnoGreen project after an open call for applications. Ms Sciberras is a Project Administrator at the UM's ERDF/ESF Unit.

#### **4.5.2 *ThinkGame Erasmus+***

Professor Sandra M. Dingli, Dr Margaret Mangion and Dr Vanessa Camilleri (the latter from UM's Department of AI, Faculty of ICT) are involved in a project entitled Think Game, which is funded under the Erasmus+ KA2 Cooperation Projects. The project deals with creativity and gamification and the project coordinator is Assoc. Prof. Adina Cocu from the Department of Computer Science and Technology, Faculty of Automatic Control, Computing, Electrical Engineering and Electronics, University 'Dunarea de Jos' of Galati, Romania (the same coordinator as for the InnoGreen project). Prof. Sandra Dingli organised and attended a two-day training session, followed by the first project partners meeting, for the ThinkGame Project (Cooperation to implement Creative Thinking and Gamification for innovative online training of STEM students) at the University of Malta on the 12–14 March 2024. Twenty-nine persons from five different Universities attended the training session. The participants came from Romania (two universities from Romania were represented), Spain, Portugal and Malta (which is where the project partners come from). Presentations were delivered by Professor Sandra M Dingli, Dr Margaret Mangion, Dr Vanessa Camilleri (all three are involved in the project as UM partners) and Dr Josef Bajada. In August 2024, Professor Matthew Montebello and Dr Josef Bajada joined the UM project team. The project deals with creativity and gamification and the coordinator is Assoc. Prof. Adina Cocu from Romania. A number of academics from UM attended this event. The second transnational partners meeting was held on 21–25 October 2024 at the University 'Dunarea de Jos' of Galati in Galati, Romania, which is the project coordinator's home institution. Professor Matthew Montebello attended this meeting. The duration of the project is three years, from November 2023 to October 2026.

#### **4.5.3 *Direct teaching of creative thinking methods***

Prof. Margaret Mangion was awarded an Internal Seed Fund to work on a project entitled 'Direct teaching of creative thinking methods. An intervention study'.

#### **4.5.4 *Erasmus+ mobility***

The Erasmus Selection and Grant Allocation Committee (ESGAC) awarded Prof. Margaret Mangion a grant to visit the University of Trieste on the Erasmus+ Mobility programme.

### **4.6 EDITORIAL BOARDS, EXAMINATIONS & ADJUDICATION PANELS**

#### **4.6.1 Editorial Board Membership and Academic Peer Reviewing (2023–2024)**

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino is Associate Editor for the *Journal of Enterprising Communities: People and Places in the Global Economy* (Emerald) and an Editorial Board Member at *Strategic Change* (Wiley), where she is a guest editor for forthcoming Special Issue on 'Entrepreneurial Decision-Making and Behavior under Radical Uncertainty'. During the current reporting period she reviewed for the *European Academy of Management (EURAM) Annual Conference*, *International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal* (Springer), *Journal of Creative Behavior* (Wiley), *Journal of Management Education* (Sage), *Journal of Management and Organization* (Cambridge University Press), *Marconi Institute for Creativity (MIC) Conference*, *International Review of Entrepreneurship* (Senate Hall) and the University of Malta Research Expo. As the new lead Track Chair for EURAM's ST03\_03, Prof. Leonie Baldacchino updated the call for papers to better align it with current and emerging research trends in the field of Entrepreneurial Cognition and Behaviour.

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli acted as reviewer for a forthcoming Festschrift volume to be published by the Faculty of Theology at the University of Malta.

Prof. Sandra M. Dingli is a reviewer for the *Journal of Enterprising Communities: People and Places in the Global Economy; Philosophical Writings* (University of Durham, England). She regularly reviews papers for the *Journal of Innovation Management* and the *Open Journal of Philosophy*. She is a member of the Editorial Board for the World Open Innovation Conference, which involves reviewing abstracts and papers (remotely) for the Annual World Open Innovation Conference.

Prof. Margaret Mangion was appointed Associate Editor at the *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* (Springer Nature) and is a member of the Advisory Team of the *Journal of Enterprising Communities: People and Places in the Global Economy* (Emerald)). Prof. Mangion is also a reviewer for the following journals: *Education Sciences* (MDPI), *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* (Springer), *Journal of Creative Behavior* (Wiley), *Management Decision* (Emerald), *Possibility Studies and Society* (Sage), *Sustainability* (MDPI), and *Thinking Skills and Creativity* (Elsevier). She also reviewed an edited volume in the book series *Creativity Theory and Action in Education* published by Springer Nature BV. Prof. Mangion served on the scientific committee for the 17th European Conference on Innovation and Entrepreneurship hosted by the Neapolis University, Pafos, Cyprus.

Dr Lisa Pace carried out academic reviews for the *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Research* (SAGE), *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* (Taylor and Francis), the *Journal of Travel and Tourism Marketing* (Taylor and Francis) and *Business Strategy and the Environment* (Wiley).

#### **4.6.2 Examination of Ph.D. theses**

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino acted as Visiting External Examiner for a Doctoral thesis submitted to the PhD in Management programme at the University of Rome 'Tor Vergata' (School of Economics, Department of Management and Law). The defence was held viva voce on 18 July 2024.

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli acted as Internal Examiner for a Doctoral thesis submitted to the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Malta. The defence was held viva voce on 15 October 2024.

#### **4.6.3 Examination of B.A. (Hons) dissertation**

- *October 2023*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli acted as Internal Examiner for a B.A. dissertation submitted to the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Malta. A viva voce examination was held in October 2023.

#### **4.6.4 Adjudication panels**

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino formed part of the following judging panels: (a) *13 April 2024*: Institute of Earth Systems (UM) Hackathon; (b) *25 April 2024*: FreeHour Youth Awards; (c) *04 & 11 May 2024*: Junior Achievement Malta Startup Programme (Head Judge); (d) *2–3 June 2024*: TakeOff Seed Fund Award (TOSFA) Adjudication Panel; and (e) *25–25 July 2024*: Trade Malta International Business Awards.

Prof. Sandra Dingli is annually invited to evaluate: (a) European Commission funding proposals as an expert for Humanities and Social Sciences; and (b) as a judge for the Innovation in Politics award, organised by the Innovation in Politics Institute (<https://innovationinpolitics.eu/institute/about/> )

### **4.7 MEMBERSHIP OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino is a board member of the Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation as well as the Doctoral Committee of the Institute. She is a board member of the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation and of the Institute of Earth Systems, and a Member of the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) and of the SEA-EU (European University of the Seas) Affairs Committee, all at the University of Malta. She forms part of the Board of Administrators of the FPEI (Foundation for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Initiatives), and she represents the University of Malta on the Quality and Ethics Subcommittee of the SEA-EU Alliance. Professor Baldacchino is also a Fellow of the ISSCI (International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation), an active participant in EURAM's (European Academy of Management) Entrepreneurship Division, and a member of the OECD's YEPA (Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy).

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli is a board member of the Edward de Bono Institute Board, as well as the Doctoral Committee of the Institute. She is Honorary Secretary of the University of Malta Academic Staff Association (UMASA) and is part of UMASA's negotiating team on the Collective Agreement for Academic Staff at the University of Malta. Prof Caruana Dingli is the chairperson of the Mdina Cathedral Archives, and a member of the Mdina Cathedral Chapter's Kumitat Tmexxija Generali. She is a Council member of the non-governmental organisation Din l-Art Ħelwa, and the editor of its magazine *Vigilo*. Since January 2024, she has been curator of St Peter's Monastery

Museum in Mdina. She is a founding member of Fondazzjoni Peter Serracino Inglott, which was launched on 16 March 2024.

Prof. Sandra M. Dingli is the Chairperson of The Edward de Bono Institute's Doctoral Committee and is the Institute's PhD Programme coordinator. She is a member of the University of Malta Library Committee. She is also involved as an expert in SEA-EU for a project on Microcredentials and Future Skills.

Prof. Margaret Mangion is Vice Chairperson of the Edward de Bono Institute Board and is a member of the Institute's Doctoral Committee. Prof. Mangion also serves on the Faculty of Social Wellbeing's Research Ethics Committee and forms part of the World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) Advisory Board. She is also a full member and board member of the ISSCI (International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation), and a board member of the Possibility Studies Network. Prof. Mangion is a member of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, and of the American Psychological Association (APA), and the Society for the Neuroscience of Creativity.

Dr Lisa Pace is a member of the Edward de Bono Institute's Doctoral Committee and of the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy's Research Ethics Committee. She coordinates the Diploma in Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Institute. Dr. Pace is the UM's Ambassador for the SEA-EU Sustainable Blue Economy Observatory.

#### 4.8 OTHER ACTIVITIES

*3rd October 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended the online symposium 'Expanding human possibility: A sociocultural approach to creativity', organised by the My Experience Molise Research Centre at the Università degli Studi del Molise.

*5th October 2023*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and Prof. Margaret Mangion co-presented a creativity workshop for students at the StartInMalta Startup Festival, organised by Malta Enterprise at the MFCC in Ta' Qali.





*17th October 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a remote lecture about links between creativity and strategic management to economics and management students at the Università di Trento.

*9th October 2023*

As part of the SEA-EU Affairs Committee, Prof. Leonie Baldacchino attended the SEA-EU Future Leadership Forum hosted by the University of Parthenope in Naples.



*24th October, 13 November & 15 December 2023, 26 January 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended online seminars organised by the International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation (ISSCI).

*25th October 2023*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino participated in a panel discussion entitled 'Leading the Front', as part of the MBA programme of the UM's Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy.

*26th October 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a remote lecture to students from Yuce High School in Turkey, organised by the Turkish Embassy to celebrate Malta Day.

*27th October 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a full-day workshop to educators at St Ignatius College, Middle School in Handaq. The workshop was the first of a series of interventions aimed at introducing Dr Edward de Bono's creative thinking methods across the school.

*27th October 2023*

Prof. Sandra Dingli attended a workshop organized by the Island Tourism Platform of the University of Malta, to draw up a set of strategic directions for sustainable tourism in Malta. She attended various online and in-person meetings for SEA-EU, including a staff day

*1st & 9th November, 15th December 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion held online and in person introductory meetings to explore avenues for collaboration between the Institute and other universities. One meeting was held with Professor Petar Vrgovic of the University of Novi Sad, Serbia, and another was with Ms Triinu Janes from VKOK Institution, Estonia. A third meeting was held with Professor Thomas Cooney from the College of Business, Technological University, Dublin, also attended by Prof. Leonie Baldacchino.

*14th November 2023*

Prof. Sandra Dingli attended the Malta–Japan seminar entitled ‘Linking Japan and Malta through research’. This was held at the University of Malta and was a collaboration between the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta and the Mediterranean Studies Group, Hitotsubashi University.

*14th November 2023*

Dr Lisa Pace was invited to deliver a lecture on foresight approaches towards a sustainable blue economy as part of the Malta Training Course on Regional Ocean Governance coordinated by the IOI - International Ocean Institute.

*15th November 2023*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino delivered a presentation on ‘Innovation as a Science’ during the EAES (European Association of Endoscopic Surgeons) Rising Stars Academy. This is a new online training programme on non-technical skills for surgeons, promoted by the Association’s Young Members Task Force.

*15th November 2023*

Prof. Sandra M Dingli attended the SEA-EU Staff Day seminar at the UM’s Valletta Campus.

*November 2023–January 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion participated in the training programme ‘Designing, Delivering, and Evaluating Online Study-Units’ for academic staff organized by the University of Malta.

*16th November 2023*

After a workshop on implementing creative thinking techniques in ethics education conducted by Prof. Margaret Mangion in June 2023, she visited the Birkirkara primary school to observe two lessons and provide the teacher with feedback.

*17th November 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a virtual conference organized by the Society for the Neuroscience of Creativity.

*20th November 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a full-day workshop to all teaching staff at the Naxxar Primary School, Maria Regina College.

*21st November 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a workshop organised by the Quality Assurance Unit at the University of Malta, entitled ‘Practical Guide to Enhancing Quality with BI’.

*28th November 2023*

Prof. Sandra M Dingli and Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a seminar organised by UM's Doctoral School on 'Sustaining and managing a growing cohort of doctoral students: New Ph.D. regulations and procedures held at the University of Malta'.

*28th November 2023*

As a member of the SEA-EU Quality and Ethics Committee, Prof. Leonie Baldacchino attended a meeting held at the University of Split (Croatia) as part of the Alliance's third Governing Week activities.



*29th November 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a CoPE (Community of Professional Educators) based on creativity in the classroom to teaching staff at St Paul's Bay Primary School, Maria Regina College.

*1st December 2023*

Prof. Sandra M Dingli attended a business breakfast organised by MECB entitled 'Unlocking a Circular Economy' held at the Grand Hotel Excelsior.

*1st December 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a full-day CoPE workshop to all teaching staff at the Mosta Primary School, Maria Regina College. The workshop introduced creativity and possibility thinking with an emphasis on practical applications in the classroom.

*5th December 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a pre consultation meeting organised by the Malta Digital Innovation Agency – Education.

*7th December 2023*



Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a workshop organised by the Sustainable Development Directorate, entitled 'Inspiring traditional and emerging blue activities that are economically viable and sustainable'. It was held at the Aula Magna Valletta Campus.

*14th December 2023*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli delivered the introductory talk at the launch of the book by Prof. Stanley Fiorini, *Archives of the Cathedral of Malta: Misc. 32C 1661–1769*. The event was held at the Cathedral Museum, Mdina.

*14th December 2023*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino moderated a panel discussion entitled 'Young and Bold in Business' during a Winter Networking Event organised by FPEI (Foundation for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Initiatives) as part of their Pathfinder membership club.

*19th December 2023*

Prof. Margaret Mangion was invited to join a working group on 'Road Safety and AI', coordinated by Dr Therese Bajada.

*4th January 2024*

Dr Lisa Pace was interviewed as part of the EU project titled 'Winblue - Empowering Women and Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the Blue Economy' to share her experiences on gender inclusion in blue economic sectors.

*15th–16th January 2024*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli, Prof. Sandra Dingli and Prof. Margaret Mangion attended the online conference of the Possibility Studies Network.

*24th January 2024*

Prof. Margaret delivered a CoPE session at Gharghur Primary school. The workshop introduced practical applications of critical thinking in the Primary School Classroom.

*24th January 2024*

Prof. Sandra M. Dingli and Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a webinar on Team Creativity delivered by Professor Christian Byrge, Vilnius University Business School, Lithuania.

*24th January 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino participated in the Careers Day event at St. Dorothy's Secondary School.

*25th January 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a training session to student groups from Eko Skola and the School Council at St Ignatius College, Handaq Middle School. The session involved the practical application of creative thinking methods to real life situations.

*25th January & 1st February 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended online seminars organized by the Possibility Studies Network.

*31st January 2024*

Prof. Sandra M. Dingli attended a business breakfast entitled 'Unlocking Low Carbon Tourism' held at the Grand Hotel Excelsior organised by the MECB.

*1st February 2024*

Following an introduction by Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli, Prof. Margaret Mangion held an exploratory meeting with Ms Cathy Peric about potential collaboration in the area of Inner Development Goals (IDGs).

*7th February 2024*

Prof. Sandra M. Dingli delivered a presentation on female empowerment at an online forum organised by Rotary District 2110 (Sicily and Malta).

*8th February 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a presentation on creativity and problem-solving for parents of students from St Ignatius College, Handaq Middle School.

*14th February 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino attended a SEA-EU focus group as part of Task 3.3 (Reinforcing SEA-EU RI common research framework). One of the main objectives of this task is to set up a research database which includes all research groups and infrastructures provided by the 9 universities of the SEA-EU alliance. In this regard, the aim of this focus group was to discuss how this database can be improved. The session was organised by the UM's SEA-EU office, led by Pro Rector Research & Knowledge Transfer and the Administrative Director of UM's Research Support Services.

*23rd February 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a full-day CoPE workshop to educators at St Ignatius College, Handaq Middle School, Qormi. During this workshop Prof. Mangion introduced the Six Thinking Hats method to all teaching staff. The session focused on practical applications in the classroom. Other sessions took place with students on leadership teams including the student council, and eko-skola within the school. Another workshop was organised for parents of students attending the school.

*29th February & 5th March 2024*

Students of the Master in Imagineering at Breda University in the Netherlands delivered an interactive workshop to undergraduate students at UM following IOT1002 Psychology of Creativity. They also attended an interactive workshop on creative thinking methods delivered by Prof. Margaret Mangion.



*4th March 2024*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli delivered the Oration at the University of Malta's graduation ceremony held at Porto Salvo church in Valletta.



*5th March 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a workshop for undergraduate students during the boot camp organized and coordinated by Dr Antonietta Rosiello at the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy.

*12th March 2024*

Prof. Sandra M Dingli attended an online seminar organised by MSF (Malta Sustainability Forum) together with APS Bank Malta on Fashion Reimagined: Rethink, Reuse, Revive.

#### *15th March 2024*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli contributed a chapter to the book J. Abela & G. Privitelli (Eds.), *Floriana & il-Furjanizi: a tri-centenary commemoration*, published by Kite Books. The book launch was held at the Curia in Floriana.

#### *10th–16th March 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino was an invited Visiting Fellow Professor at the Department of Economics and Management at the University of Pisa, where she delivered a seminar and worked on ongoing research in collaboration with Dr Sara Sassetti.

#### *15th March 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a full-day CoPE workshop to all teaching staff at Naxxar Primary School. This workshop focused on engagement with possibility thinking in everyday situations and practical applications in the classroom.

#### *16th March 2024*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli is a founding member of Fondazzjoni Peter Serracino Inglott, launched on 16 March 2024 at the Robert Samut Hall in Floriana. The foundation will work to preserve and develop the legacy Rev. Prof. Peter Serracino Inglott, former Rector of the University of Malta, in the various fields that he contributed to. The aims of the Foundation include the promotion of thought and policies addressing social and communitarian progress, environmental justice, human rights, conflict resolution, the development of a democratic environment, and culture, heritage and the arts. The foundation is responsible for conserving his archive and making it available to researchers. The launch of the Foundation was held in March 2024 and Prof Petra Caruana gave an introductory speech. Prof. Sandra Dingli also attended this event.

#### *18th March 2024*

A group of 24 students and two teachers from the International Business School, Denmark, visited the Edward de Bono Institute. Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a mini workshop. This was followed by a tour of the Msida Campus.

#### *20th March 2024*

Prof. Mangion attended a business breakfast Xjenza. This event was held to launch the National Research and Innovation Strategic Plan.

#### *March 2024*

Two online symposia focusing on innovation studies were organized by Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and Prof. Margaret Mangion. These symposia were part of a series organized by the International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation (ISSCI). Presentations were delivered by Dr Stephanie Fabri and Ms Kristina Buhagiar PhD candidate, from the University of Malta. Dr Steven Pattinson from the University of Northumbria (UK) also delivered a presentation.

#### *12th April 2024*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli contributed a chapter to the book A. Debattista & M. T. Vassallo (Eds.), *The Different Faces of Politics in Literature and Music*, published by Routledge. The book launch was held at the Robert Samut Hall in Floriana.

*19th April 2024*

Prof. Sandra Dingli and Prof. Margaret Mangion attended the inauguration of the renaming of the Prof. Edward de Bono Tal Handaq Middle School within St Ignatius College. The event was a celebration of creative thinking and an homage to Prof de Bono's legacy. Prof de Bono's sons, Mr Caspar de Bono and Mr Charles de Bono endorsed the event and attended in person.



*26th April 2024: OECD YEPA Workshop*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino participated attended the OECD's YEPA (Young Entrepreneurs Policy Academy) webinar on 'Social Entrepreneurship by Young Entrepreneurs'. She acted as rapporteur for the breakout session on 'Raising Awareness of Social Entrepreneurship'.

*2nd May 2024*

The second edition of the Edward de Bono Memorial lecture was organised by the Institute in May. The speaker this year was Professor Giovanni Emanuele Corazza of the Università di Bologna.





*9th–10th May 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino participated as a mentor during the second edition of the Lincoln Entrepreneurship and Innovation Colloquium, held at Lincoln University Business School, where she also formed part of a panel discussion on the topic of 'Meaningful Inquiry'.

*17th May 2024*

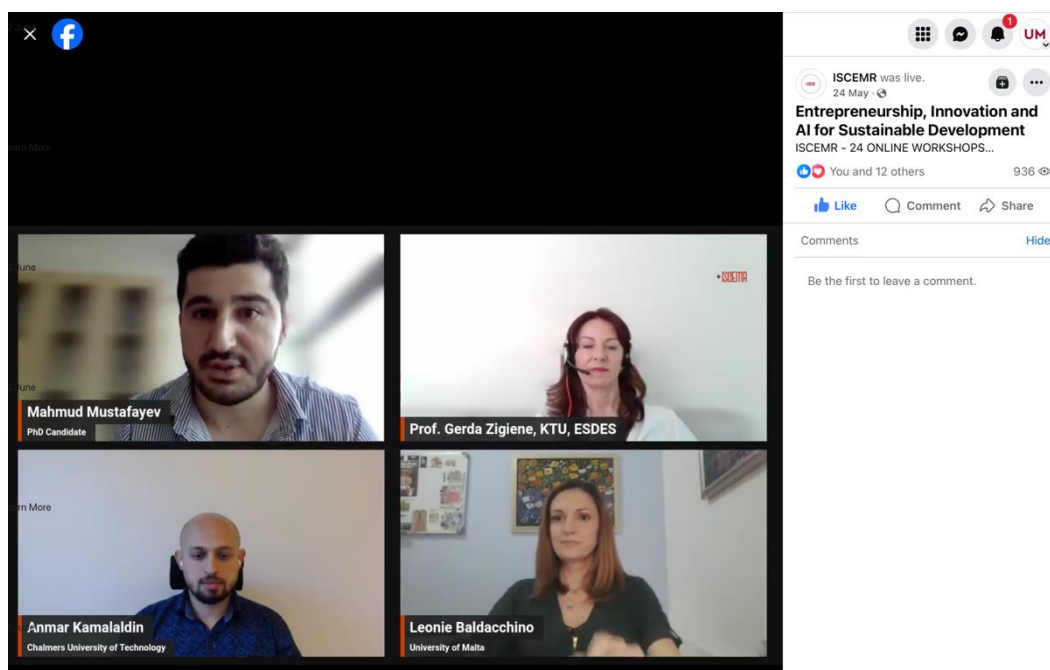
Prof. Leonie Baldacchino was an invited speaker at a forum on 'Collective Trauma', organised by the Malta Chamber of Psychologists and held at the Qawra Palace Hotel.

*17th May 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion was invited to participate in a panel discussion organised by the Arts Council Malta, entitled 'Creating an Artistic Proposal'. The panel discussion aimed to inspire artists to engage with business planning when seeking funding.

*24th May 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino participated in an online panel discussion, held as part of the 'VI International Scientific Conference of Economics and Management Researchers' organised by the Azerbaijan State University of Economics ahead of COP29.



*27th May 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended an online meeting entitled 'Labour and Skills Shortages, improving Quality Traineeships, and the emerging EU Talent Pool', organised by the Malta Business Bureau.

*29th May 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino delivered a presentation during the first plenary session at the University of Malta Research Expo. Prof Margaret Mangion and Prof Sandra M. Dingli also gave presentations during the parallel sessions. During the doctoral students' sessions, Ing. Joseph Bartolo, who is reading for a PhD in entrepreneurship at the Edward de Bono Institute, presented a paper on his work in progress.







#### *29th May 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended an online seminar focused on strategies for recruiting, developing, and retaining talented staff in higher education, organised by Times Higher Education.

#### *31st May 2024*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli acted as chair of a panel at the annual international conference organised by the Anglo-Italian Institute of the University of Malta, held at the University's Valletta campus.

#### *4th June 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino, Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli, Prof. Sandra Dingli, Prof. Margaret Mangion and Dr Lisa Pace attended a meeting with Prof. Javier Vidal from Leon University, Spain, who visited the Edward de Bono Institute as part of the Erasmus+ Mobility programme. Prof. Vidal shared an overview of his research and projects and discussed collaboration opportunities.

#### *10th & 12th June 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino presented a study during the Being SEA-EU Conference on behalf of colleagues Prof. Margaret Mangion and Prof. Marie Briguglio, on what influences secondary school students to aspire for a career in the creative industries. The conference was held at the University of Malta Valletta Campus.

#### *June 2024*

Dr Lisa Pace is leading a SWOT exercise on the state of the coastal regions in the SEA-EU partner countries, alongside Professor Alan Deidun who is the Rector's delegate of the SEA-EU alliance. The SEA-EU partners presented the state of play of the coastal region during the Being SEA-EU conference held in Malta in June 2024. Dr Pace and Professor Deidun presented an outline of Malta's SWOT on the state of the coast during the conference. This is an ongoing exercise that will lead to the publication of a state of the coast report for the SEA-EU partners.



*11th June 2024*

Dr Lisa Pace participated in the meeting of the Sustainable Blue Economy Observatory organized in parallel with the Being SEA-EU conference at the Valletta campus. Dr Pace invited Dr Stephanie Vella, WestMED National Hub coordinator to provide an overview of the WestMed initiative during the Observatory meeting in Malta.

*12th June 2024*

Dr Lisa Pace organized an international workshop at the **#beingseaeu** conference held in Malta in June. The participants from the nine SEA-EU universities were engaged in exploring actionable pathways to achieve sustainable development goal '14: Life below water'.



*11th June 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a seminar organised by UM HRMD, entitled 'Postgraduate research supervision: challenges and styles'.

*11th June 2024*

Prof. Mangion submitted feedback on the Digital Education Strategy consultation document to the Malta Chamber of Commerce and to the Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills Directorate.

*17th June 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a meeting organised by the International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation (ISSCI), aimed to initiate a discussion on various aspects related to artificial intelligence and its evolving role in creativity studies .

*19th June 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a training session organised by UM HRMD entitled 'AI for Teaching and Assessment'.

#### *20th June 2024*

Continuous Professional Development for Allied Health Professionals: The event entitled 'Creativity, Critical Thinking and Mindfulness in the Life of an Allied Health Professional' had Prof. Margaret Mangion and Prof Leonie Baldacchino engage with Allied Health Professionals on two levels. A presentation of results of a study held in Malta within this sector was followed by tips and strategies to harness creativity, critical thinking and mindfulness. This event was organised in collaboration with the Association for Speech and Language Pathologists (Malta).

#### *25th–28th June 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino attended the European Academy of Management (EURAM) Annual Conference, held at the University of Bath, UK. On 25 June, she served as a mentor during the Doctoral Colloquium. She also chaired the session where her PhD student Sandro Sant'Anna presented his preliminary PhD research findings and she acted as a discussant in another session. During the wrap-up meeting on 28 June she was announced as the new Lead Track Chair for ST03\_03 for the forthcoming years.

#### *July 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli attended a series of sessions of the online course: 'Chat GPT: From Zero to Hero'.

#### *2nd–4th July 2024*

Prof. Sandra Dingli delivered a special session at the TAKE Conference held at the Universidade Lusofona, Lisbon, Portugal.

#### *5th July 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a webinar entitled 'Innovations in measuring social and emotional skills and what AI will bring next' organised by the OECD.

#### *8th–11th July 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion and former student Mr Rocco Acocella attended the 4th International Possibility Studies Conference at University of Cambridge, UK. Prof. Mangion presented a paper detailing the impact of training Maltese educators in possibility thinking and chaired one of the sessions. Ms Dominka Opala, a current student also attended the conference.



*16th July 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a webinar organised by the International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation, during which a senior analyst from the OECD discussed the results from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in relation to creativity.

*18th July 2024*

Prof Sandra Dingli attended the summer SEA-EU Alliance staff day held at the University of Malta where discussions centered around the UM's contributions to the SEA-EU Alliance objectives, the development of Joint Degrees and updates on SEA-EU initiatives.

*25th July 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a webinar organised by the OECD, entitled 'Battling AI bias in the classroom'.

*25th July 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended the third quarter forum organised by Creativity Community of Practice (C-COP), a coalition of educators, researchers, not for profits, organizations, foundations, artists, and creatives. This is a group founded by BIC Corporate Foundation.

*10th September 2024*

To celebrate International Dot Day, a global celebration of creativity, courage and collaboration, Prof. Margaret Mangion developed and delivered activities for young students. Groups of students aged between five and seven, eight and nine, and ten and thirteen years. These events were organized with the support of and in collaboration with the Foundation for Educational Services.



*13th September 2024*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino participated in a panel discussion during the Annual International Multidisciplinary Conference organised by the University of Malta Junior College, where she spoke about the importance of an entrepreneurial mindset and the 21st century skills.



*16th–18th September 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion and Prof. Leonie Baldacchino attended the Marconi Institute of Creativity Conference in Sardinia. They co-presented a study on the relationship between critical thinking, mindfulness and creative self concept among Allied Health Professionals, chaired research paper sessions, and participated in the Annual General Assembly of the ISSCI (International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation).

*16th–20th September 2024*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli attended the VII Power of the Word conference, entitled 'The Dramatised Word: Theology, Philosophy and Literature in Conversation', held at the University of La Sapienza in Rome, Italy, at which she also presented a paper.

*23rd–24th September 2024*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli attended the conference 'Religious heritage in transition: Challenges and solutions' organized by the Future for Religious Heritage organisation and held at the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland.

*23rd–27th September 2024*

As an SEA-EU expert nominated by UM for Task 2.3 Microcredentials on Future Skills and Sustainability, Prof. Sandra Dingli attended the annual staff week meeting held at the University of Split, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, in Split, Croatia, in collaboration with the UM SEA-EU office.

#### **4.9 GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK (GEW): 7–29 NOVEMBER 2023**



For the sixteenth consecutive year, The Edward de Bono Institute proudly served as the National Host for Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) in Malta. The following events were organized and curated by Professor Leonie Baldacchino, who holds the role of National Host for GEW:

- *7 November.* 'No Fit' Online Book Launch. GEW 2023 kicked off in Malta with the online launch of the book 'No Fit' on Tuesday 7th November. Global award-winning author Dr Nico de Klerk was interviewed by Prof. Leonie Baldacchino about his extraordinary 'Long Walk for the Entrepreneurial Mindset', which is featured in his book 'No Fit'. The discussion was video recorded and is available on YouTube.
- *7 November.* ZAAR / FPEI Crowdfunding Webinar. The manager of the Foundation for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Initiatives (FPEI) and ZAAR Crowdfunding Platform, Ms

Giselle Borg Olivier, spoke about the benefits and opportunities of running a crowdfunding campaign. The event was video recorded and is available on YouTube.

- *15 November.* Founders Taboo: Entrepreneurial Coping and Wellbeing. Founders Taboo delivered a 12-week Wellbeing for Performance track to accompany the Supercharger Ventures Malta Accelerator. The session on 15th November was delivered by Prof. Leonie Baldacchino as part of GEW 2023.
- *20 November.* MBA Business Concept Pitching Event 2023. This event offered Executive MBA final year students enrolled in an entrepreneurship elective study unit at the University of Malta an opportunity for peer-learning, discussion and expert insights at an early stage of their business concept, by pitching to a select panel of experts and practitioners involved in the field of entrepreneurship. This event was organised by Dr Nathaniel Massa, Senior Lecturer at the University of Malta's Department of Management, in collaboration with The Edward de Bono Institute, and was reserved for executive MBA students.
- *22 November.* Go Global 2023 – Creativity and Innovation Management. The seventh edition of TradeMalta's Go Global – Internationalisation and Export Management Training Course aims to empower early-stage exporters with invaluable insights into the vital strategic elements of internationalisation. The session on Wednesday 22nd November was an interactive workshop on Creativity and Innovation Management, conducted by Prof. Leonie Baldacchino. The course was supported by HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. and organised jointly with Malta University Holding Company.
- *29 November.* Julian's Tech Talks: Entrepreneurship Workshop. In April 2023, Julian's Pathfinder Foundation launched a series of monthly Tech Talks for secondary school students, in collaboration with the University of Malta. These talks aim at reaching out to the brightest young minds on the island and igniting their passion in STEM subjects. The November session was held on Wednesday 29th at the University of Malta as part of GEW. It was conducted by Prof. Leonie Baldacchino, who discussed innovation and entrepreneurship. The session was aimed at senior school students who are keen to learn more about this topic.



#### **4.10 WORLD CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION WEEK: 15–21 April 2024**

The Edward de Bono Institute collaborated with various entities to celebrate World Creativity and Innovation Week (WCIW). This initiative has been celebrated annually since 2001 in an ever-growing number of countries, with the aim of inspiring new thinking and fostering a culture of creativity and innovation. In 2018, the United Nations resolved to include World Creativity and Innovation Day, 21<sup>st</sup> April, as a 'Day of Observance' to encourage people to use creativity in problem-solving for all issues related to achieving the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Prof. Margaret Mangion coordinates a programme of events to commemorate World Creativity and Innovation Week in the capacity of ambassador for WCIW/D.

- *11 March: Critical and Creative Thinking.*

This workshop was organised by the Edward de Bono Institute in collaboration with the Doctoral School at the University of Malta. Students enrolled on a doctoral programme were invited to attend and interact in an interactive discussion dealing with the importance and relevance of critical and creative thinking when approaching resources and writing at doctoral level. This workshop was delivered by Prof. Margaret Mangion.

*SDG4 Quality Education, SDG17 Partnership for the Goals*

- *11 April: Book: A Lateral Thinking Showdown: The Court Jester vs ChatGPT.*

Mr Norman Darmanin Demajo, author of this book shared his perspectives on key questions he posed himself: Can technology truly think outside the box? Can it bypass the straight road of reasoning to meander in the meadows of imagination? During this journey where lateral thinking met ChatGPT, Mr Darmanin Demajo shared highlights from his work while engaging with the audience in a question-and-answer session.

*SDG17 Partnership for the Goals.*

- *12–13 April: Hack20.*

This Hackathon was organised by the Institute of Earth Systems in collaboration with the Edward de Bono Institute. The aim of the hackathon was to address the pressing needs to conserve water in domestic settings. This two-day event was aimed at students attending sixth form. Prof. Margaret Mangion facilitated a creative thinking session while Prof. Leonie Baldacchino was a member of the judging panel brought together for this event.

*SDG4 Quality Education, SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG17 Partnership for the Goals.*



○ *18 April: Opening Doors.*

This event involved the participation of a group of performers with different abilities. During the session, Ms Sarah Amato, artistic director of the group gave an overview of the aims of Opening Doors and how performers with different abilities can engage in artistic creativity through performances in theatre, music, and dance. Undergraduate students taking IOT1002, Psychology of Creativity had the opportunity of experiencing theatrical contributions from different perspectives.

*SDG 3 Health and Wellbeing, SDG4 Quality Education and SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG17 Partnership for the Goals.*





- *18 April: Inner Development Goals with Ms Cathy Peric and Ms Denise Perini.*

The session entitled 'Collective Inner Growth as a Catalyst for Global Change' aimed to encourage students on IOT1009 A Toolkit for Thinking out of the Box to delve into the Inner Development Goals (IDGs) framework. This framework arose from a pressing need to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and pave the way for a brighter future. Through a blend of personal reflections and group activities, the students were engaged first hand with the IDG framework, and explored how creativity can act as a catalyst for social transformation. This journey of discovery highlighted how the role that each one of us can play in harnessing the power of collective inner development to drive positive change within our communities and beyond. Ms Peric and Ms Perini kindly facilitated the session on behalf of the IDG Valletta Community Hub.

*SDG 3 Health and Wellbeing, SDG4 Quality Education, SDG17 Partnership for the Goals.*

- *19 April: St Ignatius College, Handaq Middle School in collaboration with the Malta Crafts Foundation.*

During this activity, students in Year 7 and Year 8 were introduced to SCAMPER, a creative thinking technique. This was followed by an introduction to artisanship with a focus on weaving. A traditional weaving machine was brought in and after an explanation about how it works and the artisan's wish to develop new products and the desire to improve the technique to a more efficient one, the students applied SCAMPER with the aim of reaching new solutions. This hands-on, creative thinking session presented a good opportunity for students to realise how creativity can be applied to solve real world problems. The event was coordinated and delivered by Dr Margaret Mangion.

*SDG4 Quality Education, SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG17 Partnership for the Goals*

- *20 April, Emotional regulation for parents and children.*

In this workshop participants learned a powerful tool called Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT), and how they may use it at home to move through difficult emotional triggers, restoring love, peace and harmony within the family and in life. Participants also learned two effective and simple breathwork practices for calming the mind and restoring the precious life force energy through the body. The workshop came to a close with a dream journey meditation and picking cards. The

event was facilitated by Ms Angie Mifsud from Freedom to Live and to Relate.

*SDG 3 Health and Wellbeing, and SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG17 Partnership for the Goals.*

- *22 April: ChatGPT: From Zero to Hero in 1 Hour.*

Prof. Alexiei Dingli delivered an interactive presentation ‘ChatGPT: From Zero to Hero in 1 Hour’, held at the UM Library. The event was organised by Prof. Sandra Dingli in collaboration with the University of Malta Library.

*SDG4 Quality Education*

- *25 April: SCAMPER IT!*

This event was organised for participants undertaking an evening course on how to plan, launch and grow your own business offered by the Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences UM programme. In collaboration with Professor Russell Smith from the Centre for Business Incubation at the University of Malta, the participants ran SCAMPER on a model of Bentley EXP 2 in an effort to make it easier to access for persons with reduced mobility.

- *Book chapter.*

Dr Margaret Mangion authored a chapter in the book entitled *Creativity for a Sustainable Future*. This book edited by Dr Katja Tschimmel strives to be an inspiring exploration of creativity’s role in the development of a future worth living. WCIW ambassadors from across Europe contributed to this publication that will be launched on World Creativity and Innovation Day 21 April, 2024.

*SDG4 Quality Education, SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG17 Partnership for the Goals.*

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## 5.0 GOVERNANCE PROFILE

### 5.1 INSTITUTE BOARD

The Edward de Bono Institute is governed by a Board. During the academic year 2023–24, board meetings were held on 17 January 2024, 21 March 2024, 17 May 2024 and 6 September 2024.

During the academic year 2023–2024 the Institute Board was composed as follows:

**Professor Noellie Brockdorff (Chairperson)**

Head, Department of Cognitive Science

Dean, Faculty of Media and Knowledge Science, University of Malta

**Professor Margaret Mangion (Vice Chairperson)**

Director, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

**Professor Daphne Attard (Member)**

Associate Professor, Faculty of Science, University of Malta

**Professor Leonie Baldacchino (Member)**

Associate Professor, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

**Professor Petra Caruana Dingli (Member)**

Associate Professor, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

**Professor Vincent Cassar (Member)**

Deputy Dean, Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy, University of Malta

**Professor Russell Smith (Member)**

Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation, University of Malta

**Mr Ricardo Carvalho (Student representative)**

Master in Creativity and Innovation

**Ms Priscilla Tabone (Student representative)**

Diploma in Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

**Ms Josianne Sciberras (Secretary to the Board)**

Administration Specialist, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

## 5.2 INSTITUTE DOCTORAL COMMITTEE

During the academic year 2023–24, doctoral committee meetings were held on 11 December 2023, 30 January 2024, 16 May 2024, and 30 July 2024. Prof. Sandra Dingli also attended the first meeting of the Doctoral Committee Chairs Network at UM on 10 November 2023.

During the academic year 2023–2024 the Institute Doctoral Committee was composed as follows:

**Professor Sandra Dingli (Chairperson)**

Professor, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

**Professor Margaret Mangion**

Associate Professor, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

Director, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

**Professor Leonie Baldacchino**

Associate Professor, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

**Professor Petra Caruana Dingli**

Associate Professor, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

**Dr Lisa Pace**

The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

### **5.3 STAFF MEETINGS**

During the academic year 2023–2024, Institute staff meetings were held on 24 October 2023, 15 December 2023, 30 January 2024, 16 May 2024, and 30 July 2024.

### **5.3 BOARD OF EXAMINER MEETINGS**

During the academic year 2023–2024, Institute Board of Examiners meetings were held on 12 October 2023, 21 February 2024 and 16 July 2024.

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## **6.0 PLANNING PROFILE**

### **6.1 PROGRAMMES OF STUDY FOR 2024–2025**

After lengthy discussions it was agreed to shift the Institute's M.A. programme to hybrid mode for the academic year 2024–2025, to cater for students whose work commitments or place of residence made it difficult for them to attend lectures at UM during the day throughout the academic year. An intensive in-person week would be held at the beginning of each semester, and the rest of the lectures would be held remotely (via Zoom) in the evenings or online (asynchronous).

A staff meeting was held on 30 January 2024 to discuss the timetable for the face-to-face intensive weeks, and it was agreed that these should each be held over a period of six intensive days. The rest of the lectures would be held in online and remote modes.

The Institute was informed by the UM Operations department that due to this new modality, the course fees will no longer be the usual enrolment fee of €400 per academic year, as this only applies to day programmes. An agreement was reached to offer a 50% discount to the October 2024 intake only, i.e. at the rate of €2,250 for local/EU students instead of €4,500, and €5,400 instead of €10,800 for third-country nationals.

After verifying the procedures with APQRU, the Institute was informed that these changes required ESDEC approval and for this reason, Appendix B and new study-unit approval forms for each study-unit to be offered in the course programme had to be submitted for their approval. Since the changes only reflected the modality and not the course content, these forms did not require approval of the Institute Board.

The changes were approved by the ESDEC, and the Institute's M.A. programme was offered in hybrid mode for 2024–2025, with 15 registered students following the course once it opened in October 2024.



## 7.0 MEDIA APPEARANCES AND PRESS COVERAGE

### 7.1 SOCIAL MEDIA

The Edward de Bono Institute has an active Facebook page with around 7,000 followers. The page is updated regularly and it promotes and showcases all the Institute initiatives and courses.



## 7.2 Other media

Thursday 11 July 2024  
[Visit Campus 103.7](#)


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# Sustainable futures for the coastal and marine ecosystems – opportunities and challenges for the SEA-EU Alliance

[News](#) > [2024](#) > [July](#) > [Sustainable futures for the coastal and marine ecosystems – opportunities and challenges for the SEA-EU Alliance](#)

In Community 09:04, 03 Jul 2024

Share:



### The 'BEING SEA-EU' Conference

held at the UM Valletta campus last June was the first international scientific conference to showcase academic advancements in multidisciplinary fields among the nine partners of the SEA-EU Alliance. It was also an opportunity for discussion and reflection on the future of sustainable coastal and marine ecosystems.

Dr Lisa Pace from the Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation shared: "When I approached Prof. Alan Deidun with the idea of organising a futures workshop at the Being SEA-EU conference he was very enthusiastic and supportive".

The futures workshop engaged conference participants in exploring different pathways towards sustainable coastal and marine ecosystems and reflecting on how present-day challenges and opportunities could bring us closer to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 'Life Below Water'.

Dr Pace, who lectures on foresight and sustainability innovation, claims that: "Scientists as well as policymakers need to be equipped with foresight and futures skills to pro-actively respond in a timely manner to the imminent challenges that the oceans and coastal areas are facing".


The participants were enthusiastic to participate in the hands-on workshop. It was particularly interesting to obtain the perspectives of scientists that hailed from interdisciplinary and multi-cultural backgrounds. "This is a unique opportunity that the SEA-EU Alliance offers", says Prof. Deidun, who is also the Rector's Delegate and Convener of the 'BEING SEA-EU' Conference.

The closing plenary of the 'BEING SEA-EU' Conference served as a space where the SEA-EU partners shared the strengths and weaknesses of their coastal regions as well as future opportunities in four domains relating to: the establishment of marine renewable energies, the generation of marine ecosystem services, the circular economy and spatial planning of socio-economic activities. This is part of the work of a task force, led by the University of Malta, that is developing a SWOT analysis of the coastal areas.


Professor Deidun explained the importance of this exercise: "The outputs will be used to prepare a 'state of the coast' report and presented at the SEA-EU Governing Week to be held at the Valletta campus during the last week of November 2024". This is one of many initiatives spearheaded by the University of Malta during its current presidency of the SEA-EU Alliance.

In fact, during the last SEA-EU Governing Week held in Bodo, Norway, the Rector of the University of Malta, Prof. Alfred J Vella, officially assumed the role of Rotating Rector Coordinator of the SEA-EU Alliance. This significant appointment is part of a rotating presidency scheme that sees each university rector lead the alliance for a six-month term.


### See More



**Australian High Commissioner to Malta** tours Oceanography Labs at UM  
COMMUNITY 10:19, 10 Jul 2024



**Prof. Maria Attard is the new Chair of NECTAR (Network on European Communications and Transport Activity Research)**  
COMMUNITY 08:05, 09 Jul 2024



**All ages experience ICT in a fun, interactive way at UM Faculty's latest Expo**  
COMMUNITY 07:45, 09 Jul 2024

### Categories

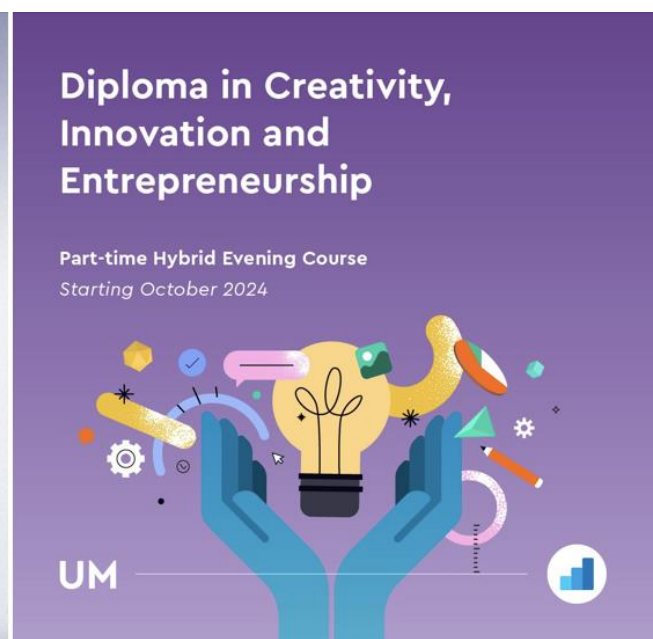
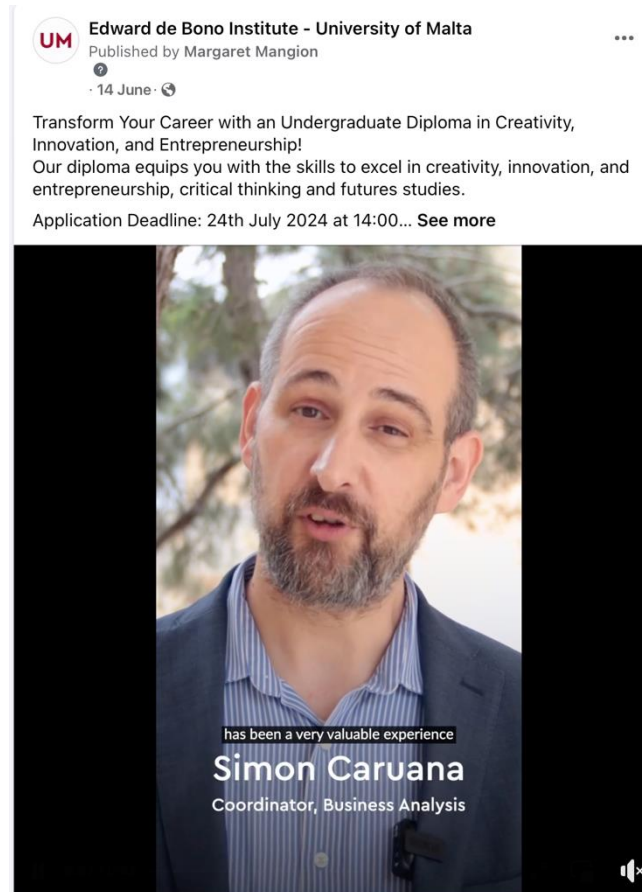
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### 7.3 Promotion of Institute courses

The Institute regularly uses social media to promote its courses and initiatives.

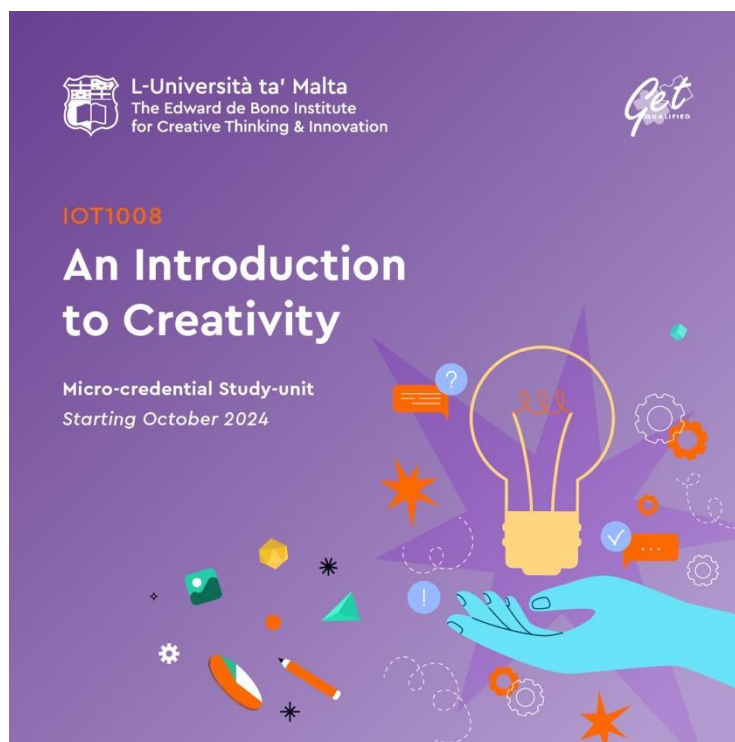
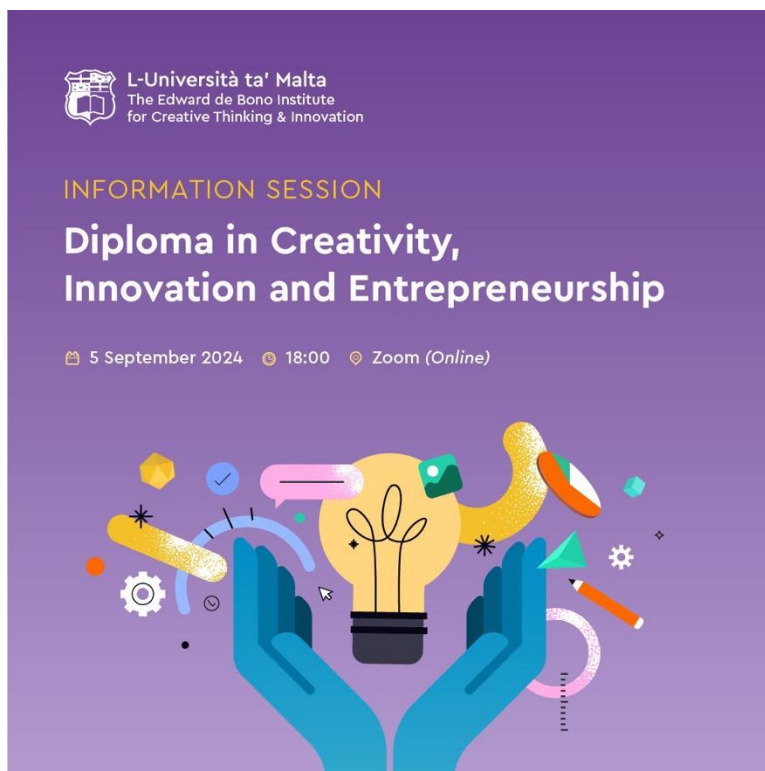
The courses were also promoted through student testimonials.





○ 5 September 2024

An information session on the Diploma for Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship was held online for people interested in finding out more about the course.



**7.2 During the academic year 2023–2024, the Institute and its members of staff also received the following media coverage:**

○ *3 October 2023*

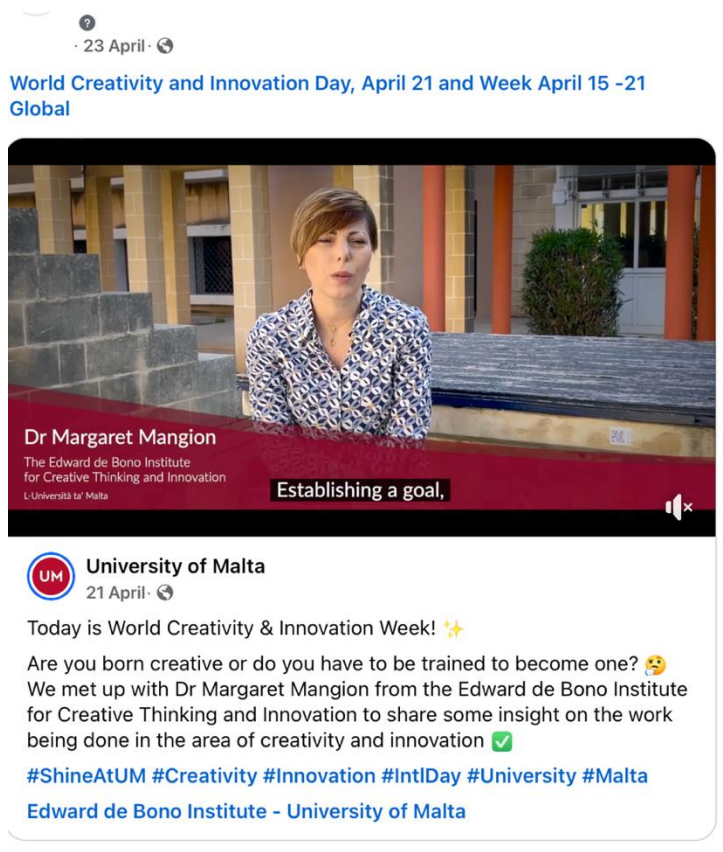
Prof. Leonie Baldacchino was invited to discuss creativity, science and entrepreneurship on Radio Mocha, hosted by Danielle Farrugia. This was aired on 19 October on Radju Malta.

○ *15 February 2024*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli participated as interviewee in an episode of the programme 'Il-Barokk', aired on TVM.

○ *21 April 2024*

Prof. Margaret Mangion was interviewed by UM for World Creativity and Innovation Day 15–21 April 2024.



## THINKGAME project: gamification and creativity for STEM topics

Newspoint > News > 2024 > April > THINKGAME project: gamification and creativity for STEM topics



Prof. Sandra Dingli from The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation recently organised a training workshop and partners meeting for the Erasmus+ ThinkGame project (Cooperation to implement creative thinking and gamification for innovative online training of STEM students) at the University of Malta's Msida Campus.

Dr Vanessa Camilleri from the Faculty of ICT and Dr Margaret Mangion from The Edward de Bono Institute are also involved in this project, together with Professor Dingli.

Twenty-eight persons from five countries including Malta attended the two-day training session on gamification and creativity which was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Adina Cocu from the University "Dunarea de Jos" of Galati in Romania (project coordinator), together with Dr Vanessa Camilleri, Dr Josef Bajada, Dr Margaret Mangion and Prof. Sandra Dingli, all from the University of Malta.

During the partners' meeting, which was the first for this three-year project, the five partner representatives discussed the manner in which the project will develop, and tasks were allocated. The goal of the project arises from the need to enhance the abilities of educators to incorporate gamification and creativity in their e-learning systems. A number of online tools will be developed by each of the partners, and these will be evaluated and tested. Once completed, the online platform may be used by academics to enrich their courses and by students to motivate the development of their creative thinking skills.

### See More



**Dr Bob Selderslaghs Leads Mantle of the Expert Workshops**

WORKSHOPS 12:20, 13 Jan 2025



**Audiovisual Translation Students Visit the University of Palermo**

WORKSHOPS 13:07, 20 Dec 2024



**Patients and Healthcare Professionals - Why not mediate instead of fight! Can we implement alternative dispute resolution measures in Medico-Legal cases?**

WORKSHOPS 08:16, 03 Dec 2024

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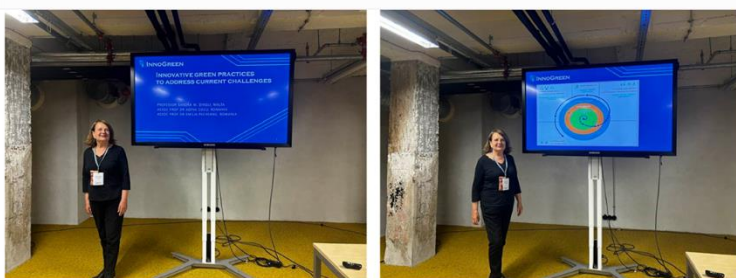
<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/2024/04/think-game-project-gamification-creativity-stem-topics>

## Innovative Green Practices to address current challenges: Presentation at the XXXV ISPIM Conference

News point > News > 2024 > June > Innovative Green Practices to address current challenges: Presentation at the XXXV ISPIM Conference

In Conferences 08:00, 24 Jun 2024

Share:



Prof. Sandra M. Dingli from The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation recently delivered a presentation on 'Innovative Green Practices to address current challenges' at the XXXV ISPIM Innovation Conference which was held in Tallinn, Estonia.

The co-authors are Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adina Cocu and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emilia Pecleanu, both from the Department of Computer Science and Technology, University "Dunarea de Jos" of Galati, Romania.

The theme of the conference was local innovation systems for global impact. The presentation focused on the green business innovation canvas (GBIC) that has been developed as part of the InnoGreen Erasmus+ project (Innovative entrepreneurs leading green businesses), partly financed by the European Commission.

The GBIC is an online tool which aims to motivate entrepreneurs to adopt innovative green practices that have been extracted from 60 interviews with entrepreneurs in the project's eight European partner countries. A list of 159 green practices (or triggers) was drawn up and these have been categorized into Environmental, Social and Economic practices.

The 'triggers' have been, moreover, mapped onto the nine elements of the business model canvas. The InnoGreen project comes to an end in October 2024, at which stage an online platform with numerous resources will be made publicly available to enable adult educators to train prospective and current entrepreneurs to adopt more innovative sustainable practices. ISPIM is the International Society for Professional Innovation Management, the oldest and most active innovation network which consists of a large community of members and which was originally set up in Norway in 1983.

### See More



**DIGRA 2025 Volunteers: Be Part of the Biggest Academic Game Studies Conference**

CONFERENCES 09:43, 15 Jan 2025



**Counselling in a World of New Challenges: Cultivating Mental Health and Wellbeing**

CONFERENCES 12:03, 08 Jan 2025



**Current Developments in International Law Conference**

CONFERENCES 09:00, 07 Jan 2025

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<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/2024/06/innovative-green-practices>



## UM Representation at the SEA-EU Staff Week in Split, Croatia

Newspoint > News > 2024 > October > UM Representation at the SEA-EU Staff Week in Split, Croatia

In Talks 14:55, 21 Oct 2024

Share:



Prof. Sandra Dingli and Mr Albert Debono recently attended the SEA-EU Staff Week on Fostering Educational Excellence and Quality Higher Education at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Split, Croatia. Both Prof. Dingli and Mr Debono provided valuable contributions to the discussions that followed a number of insightful presentations by academics from the University of Split. As Prof. Dingli said, 'This was an excellent learning experience on topics that are extremely relevant for academics today, and also a great opportunity to network and to share experiences with other representatives from SEA-EU Universities'.

Presentations were delivered by academics from the University of Split on topics related to fostering educational excellence, these included:

- Enhancing participants' understanding of critical and creative thinking;
- Elevating the quality of teaching;
- Analysing the quality of higher education from the perspective of transversal skills to better prepare students for future challenges;
- Creating and maintaining inclusive environments within educational institutions;
- Raising awareness of the hidden curriculum which includes the impact of the family, the media, and the social environment on students;
- Increasing awareness about the significance of sustainable practices.

In addition to the activities organised as part of the SEA-EU Staff Week in Split, Prof. Dingli also participated in a meeting on SEA-EU Task 2.3 on Micro-credentials, organised by representatives from Kiel University (CAU) in Germany. This task incorporates the development of Micro-credentials on Future Skills which are being developed and offered to students from all SEA-EU universities. It was evident that the Staff Week discussions overlapped with the topic of Micro credentials and Future Skills due to the focus on quality teaching, inclusive collaboration, and the promotion of critical and creative thinking. Insights that emerged from the Staff Week were discussed during this meeting and applied to the development and evaluation of Micro credentials on Future Skills.

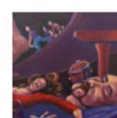
Participation was supported by the International Office through Erasmus+ funds and the SEA-EU Office through the project budget.

### See More



Esplora to Host PALEOSIM Seminar Featuring Ice Age Land-Bridge Visuals

TALKS 11:05, 14 Jan 2025



Art Exhibition by Silvio John Camilleri - Urban Dreamscapes

TALKS 12:24, 13 Jan 2025



Exploring Sustainable Agriculture in Argentina: A Collaborative Endeavour

TALKS 12:23, 13 Jan 2025

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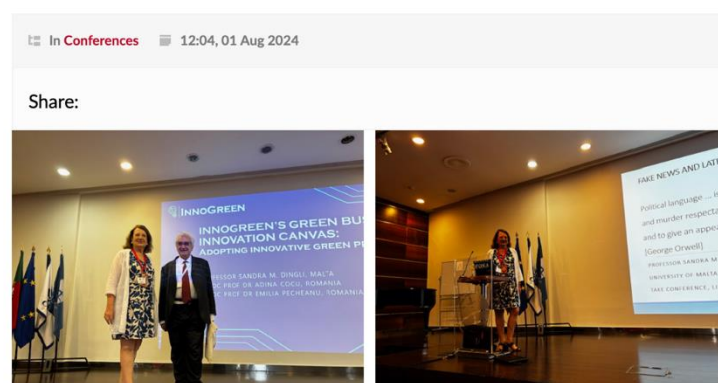
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<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/2024/10/um-representation-at-sea-eu-staff-week-in-split-croatia>



## Two conference presentations on Green Practices and on Fake News at the TAKE conference held at Lusofona University, Lisbon, in July 2024

Newspoint > News > 2024 > August > Two conference presentations on Green Practices and on Fake News at the TAKE conference held at Lusofona University, Lisbon, in July 2024



Prof. Sandra M. Dingli from The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation recently delivered two presentations at the TAKE conference 2024: The Multidisciplinary Conference on Intangibles, held at the Lusofona University, Lisbon, Portugal, in July 2024.


The first paper was entitled 'The InnoGreen Project's Green Business Innovation Canvas: Adopting innovative green practices' which was co-authored by Assoc. Prof. Adina Cocu and Assoc. Prof. Emilia Pecheanu, both from the University Dunarea de Jos of Galati, Romania. This paper discussed the results of the [Erasmus+](#) project InnoGreen (Innovative entrepreneurs leading green businesses, partly financed by the European Commission), which include the creation of 159 'triggers' which may be used to motivate entrepreneurs to develop sustainable practices.

The presentation focused on the Green Business Innovation Canvas (GBIC) that was developed as part of the project. The GBIC is an online tool which aims to motivate entrepreneurs to adopt innovative green practices that have been extracted from 60 interviews with entrepreneurs in the project's eight European partner countries. The InnoGreen project comes to an end in October 2024, at which stage an online platform with numerous resources will be made publicly available to enable adult educators to train prospective and current entrepreneurs to adopt more innovative sustainable practices.


The second paper was entitled 'Fake News and Lateral Thinking: Navigating the Erosion of Truth'. This was delivered as a special presentation and workshop session on lateral thinking to a large audience who appreciated the topical nature of this presentation and who eagerly participated in the interactive workshop.

TAKE is an international scientific conference devoted to the multidisciplinary study of the knowledge economy. Its aim is to analyse the relation and the gap between theories and practices in the knowledge economy of the 21st century. The key theme of the 2024 conference was Working, Training, Learning, Unlearning and Relearning in Post-Covid19 societies: Virtualities, opportunities and challenges.


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