



L-Università
ta' Malta

The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation

Annual Report
2024/2025



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

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2.0 STAFF PROFILE

During the academic year 2024-2025, the Edward de Bono Institute was composed of five full-time resident academic staff, one part-time visiting academic staff, and two administrative staff. A number of casual part-time lecturers also contributed to the Institute's teaching activities throughout the academic year.

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



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 2024–2025, the Edward de Bono Institute offered two of its three core courses, namely, the Master in Creativity and Innovation (full time and part time) and the Ph.D. degree, where researchers have the opportunity to explore Creativity, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Foresight and Critical Thinking at a Doctoral level. 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). 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)

3.1.3 Ph.D. in Creativity, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Foresight or Critical Thinking

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) 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).

3.2 ADDITIONAL STUDY UNITS OFFERED BY THE INSTITUTE

During the academic year 2024-2025, The Edward de Bono Institute offered the following study-units to a variety of Faculties, Institutes and Centres at the University of Malta:

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 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 2008 Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Practical Approaches (4 ECTS)
IOT 3110 Creative and Critical Thinking for Public Officers (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 introduced the following micro-credentials in February 2025:

IOT1009 A Toolkit for Thinking Out of the Box (4 ECTS)

IOT1102 Entrepreneurship Training for People with Disabilities (5 ECTS)

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*.

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. (4ECTS) *Prof. Sandra M. Dingli*.

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli was invited to give a guest lecture to post-graduate students taking LIA5026 Maltese Historical and Ecclesiastical Archives (Library Information and Archive Sciences, MAK5) on 7 April 2025.

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli was appointed as Co-supervisor for the student Francesca Montesin for the dissertation 'The Evolution of the Book and the Changing Dynamics of Reader Interaction with Physical and Digital Texts', Research MA, Department of English. Main supervisor: Prof Mario Aquilina.

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 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, the Master in Creativity and Innovation, and the doctoral programme, graduated in ceremonies held in November 2024 and March 2025.

3.4.1 Degrees and Diplomas Awarded in 2024–25

Master in Creativity and Innovation March 2025	Diploma in Creativity and Innovation November 2024	PhD in Creativity and Innovation March 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Borg David• Caruana Kelly• Ebejer Ivan• Gandhi Mohitdeep Singh• Grima Christian• Gruppetta Madeleine• Hauser Anna Elena• Mizzi Martina• Psaila Fabian• Psaila Matthew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abela Benjamin• Bonavia Clive• Bugeja Dorianne• Camilleri Marika• Caruana Simon• Faure Antoine• Sammut Jean Claude• Stafrace Anoushka• Tabone Priscilla	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buhagiar Kristina

3.5 MASTER DISSERTATIONS SUBMITTED IN 2024–2025

Name of Student	Dissertation Title	Supervisor and Examiners
Mikhail Baldacchino	Critical Thinking and pro-environmental behaviour	Supervisor: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli Chair: Prof. Leonie Baldacchino External: Dr Brigid Golden Internal: Prof. Margaret Mangion Internal: Prof. Sandra M. Dingli
Ricardo Carvalho	The Role of Cultural Capital in Ideation And Entrepreneurship: An Exploratory Study from Portugal	Supervisor: Dr Lisa Pace Chair: Prof. Margaret Mangion External: Prof. Huriye Yeroz Internal: Prof. Leonie Baldacchino Internal: Prof. Sandra M. Dingli
Stephen Mintoff	The successful shift: Fostering Entrepreneurial innovation for future success	Supervisor: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli Chair: Prof. Margaret Mangion External: Dr Giacomo Marzi Internal: Prof. Leonie Baldacchino Internal: Prof. Joe Schembri
Dominika Anna Opala	The influence of multiple intelligences on creative leadership	Supervisor: Prof. Sandra M. Dingli Chair: Prof. Margaret Mangion External: Prof. Tudor Rickards Internal: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli Internal: Dr Lisa Pace
Bella Said	Citizen Participation in a Maltese Democracy in 2035. A Participatory Foresight Activity	Supervisor: Prof. Sandra M. Dingli Chair: Prof. Margaret Mangion External: Prof. Luke Georghiou Internal: Dr Lisa Pace Internal: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli
Rachel Spiteri	Perspectives on the future of technological devices that aid mobility for people with chronic neurological conditions	Supervisor: Prof. Sandra M. Dingli Chair: Prof. Margaret Mangion External: Prof. Adina Cocu Internal: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli Internal: Dr Lisa Pace
Denise Sultana	Creative self-concept during the early years of parenthood: An exploratory study	Supervisor: Prof. Sandra M. Dingli Chair: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli External: Dr Paula Alvarez Huerta Internal: Prof. Leonie Baldacchino Internal: Prof. Margaret Mangion

Bernice Vassallo	Associations between critical thinking dispositions and personality in university students	Supervisor: Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli Chair: Dr Lisa Pace External: Prof. Ugur Akpur Internal: Prof. Margaret Mangion Internal: Prof. Leonie Baldacchino
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3.6 Doctoral Dissertation Examined

Name of Student	Dissertation Title	Supervisor and Examiners
Kristina Buhagiar	Innovation in Boutique Hotels in Valletta, Malta	Supervisor: Prof. Sandra M. Dingli Chair: Prof. Margaret Mangion External: Prof. Anne-Mette Hjalager Internal: Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino Internal: Prof. Franco Curmi

4.0 ACHIEVEMENTS PROFILE

4.1 PUBLISHED WORKS

Baldacchino, L. *Inclusive Entrepreneurship Policy Country Assessment Notes: Malta 2024*. OECD.

Baldacchino, L. (2025). 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. (2025). The effects of coping strategies on entrepreneurs' psychological well-being under uncertainty. *Strategic Change*, 0, 1-13, <https://doi.org/10.1002/jsc.2613>

Caruana Dingli, P. (2025) 'Bizzoche and tertiaries: Options for women in early modern Malta'. *Religions* 16 (2025), 966.

Caruana Dingli, P. (2025) 'The Maria Lactans painting in Mdina: Rediscovering a painting at St Peter's Monastery'. *Treasures of Malta* 93 (3), 20–29.

Caruana Dingli, P., and Lupo, V. (2025) "'Darkness came over all the land": The Crucifixion painting at St. Paul's basilica in Rabat'. *Vigilo* 62 (2025), 17–21.

Cocu, A., Pechaenu, E., Susnea, I., Dingli, S., Istrate, A., Tudorie, C. (2025). Technology-Enabled Learning for Green and Sustainable Entrepreneurship Education. In *Administrative Sciences*, Vol.15, Special Issue 2, February 2025, and in Special Issue Reprint (pp. 102 - 205) entitled *Emerging Trends in Innovative Learning Environments and Entrepreneurial Learning* Eds. Muhammed Zaheer and Samma Faiz Rasool, MDPI AG, Switzerland.

Cocu, A., Pechaenu, E., Susnea, I., Vilanova, R., Varanda Pereira, M.J., Dingli, S.M., Mihalache, S. (2025) Integrating Gamification in LMS-Based STEM Education: An Adaptive Implementation Approach, in volume 3, *Proceedings of the 28th International Conference on Interactive Collaborative Learning*, Springer.

Corazza, G. E., Agnoli, S., Jorge Artigau, A., Beghetto, R. A., Bonnardel, N., Coletto, I., Faiella, A., Gerardini, K., Gilhooly, K., Glăveanu, V. P., Hanson, M. H., Kapoor, H., Kaufman, J. C., Kenett, Y. N., Kharkhurin, A. V., Luchini, S., Mangion, M., Mirabile, M., Obialo, F.-K., ... Lubart, T. (2025). Cyber-Creativity: A Decalogue of Research Challenges. *Journal of Intelligence*, 13(8), 103.

Dingli, S. M. (2025). Fake News and Lateral Thinking: Navigating the erosion of Truth. Chapter 3 in Springer *Proceedings in Business and Economics, Intangibles in the Knowledge Economy*, Ed. Eduardo Luis Soares Tome, ISBN: 978-3-031-86660-9.

Dingli, Sandra M., Cocu, A., Pecheanu, E. (2025) The InnoGreen Project's Green Business Innovation Canvas: Adopting Innovative Green Practices, Chapter 7 in E.L.S. Tomé (ed.), *Intangibles in the Knowledge Economy*, Springer *Proceedings in Business and Economics*, pp.81-97,

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

Mangion, M. (2025). Community-engaged learning: enhancing marketing education through experiential approaches with real clients. In *Practical Applications of Experiential and Community-Engaged Learning Methods in Business*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Mangion, M., Baldacchino, L., & Dingli, S. M. (2025). Studying creativity in the 21st 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.

Mangion, M. & Baldacchino, L. (2025), Creative Expanding the Scope of Creativity Assessment: Integrating Everyday Creativity to Address 21st Century Complexities. *Journal of Creative Behavior*

Mangion, M., Valquaresma, A., & Glaveanu, V. P. (2025). Exploring the impact of possibility thinking training on educators' creative self-perceptions: A mixed methods action research study in Maltese schools. *Methods in Psychology*.

Mangion, M., Valquaresma, A. (2024). Getting Ready for the Post-Anthropocene: Hopeful Possibilities?. In: Valquaresma, A., Dantas de Paula, L., Rodney, T.K. (eds) *Creativity and Learning*. Palgrave Studies in Creativity and Culture. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

Mangion, M. (2024). Creativity as a Skill for Lifelong Learning and How to Nurture it in the Workplace. In: Valquaresma, A., Dantas de Paula, L., Rodney, T.K. (eds) *Creativity and Learning*. Palgrave Studies in Creativity and Culture. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

Pace, L. A., Bruno, C., & Schwarz, J. O. (2025). Personas in scenario building: Integrating human-centred design methods in foresight. *Futures*, 166, 103539.

Pace, L. A. (2025). The role of human-centred design in creating immersive and experiential futures. *Possibility Perspectives* 2(2).

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 *Handbook of Sustainable Blue Economy* (pp. 1-25). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Pace, L. A. (2024). Sustainability-Oriented Innovation in Tourism Destinations: Born Ready or Bred for Success? In *Sustainable tourism: Frameworks, practices, and innovative solutions* (pp. 13-32). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Varanda Pereira, M.J., Alves, L., Cocu, A., Dingli, S.M., Meneses, M., Vilanova, R. (2025) Enhancing Creative Thinking through gamification in LMS environments, in *Proceedings of the 6th International Computer Programming Educational Conference (ICPEC 2025)* in the series Open Access Series in Informatics (OASIs).

Walaszczyk, L. and Dingli, S. (2025) Business Models in a sustainable enterprise: Examples from selected European countries, *Economics and Environment*, No. 2 (93)

4.2 FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Caruana Dingli, P. 'Creativity and the Pursuit of Happiness in the Writings of William Morris'. In Emma Mason and Thomas Graff (Eds.). *What is Literature for? Literary, Philosophical and Theological Perspectives*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Mangion, M. *Creativity and Wellbeing: Fostering a Flourishing School Environment*. In B. Lucas, P. Sowden, E. Spencer, & R. Seymour (Eds.), *Handbook of Creativity in Schools*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Mangion, M., & Valqueresma, A. *Exploring Pedagogies of the Possible in Global Citizenship Education*. In E. Bosio & Y. Waghid (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook on Global Citizenship Education*. Oxford University Press.

4.3 CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Baldacchino, L. (2025). The Relationship between entrepreneurs' dark and light triad traits, coping strategies, and psychological well-being. Paper presented at the University of Malta Research Expo, University of Malta Valletta Campus, Malta.

Baldacchino, L. (2025). Art, culture, and wellbeing: Reaping the rewards of creativity. Chapter presented at the Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics (SABE) Annual Conference, University of Trento, Italy.

Baldacchino, L., Mangion, M. & Dingli, S.M. (2025). Creative Jam: Jazz Improvisation and Idea Generation. Research presented at the Marconi Institute for Creativity Annual Conference, Bolzano, Italy.

Dingli, S.M., Church, R., Scicluna, R., Scicluna Derkowska, A. (June 2025) The Academic Library in 2050: Navigating the Digital Transformation, paper presented at the XXXVI ISPIM Innovation conference held in Bergen, Norway.

Dingli, S.M., Church, R., Scicluna, R., Scicluna Derkowska, A. (May 2025) The next chapter for academic libraries as catalysts of knowledge. Paper presented at the UM Research Expo held at the University of Malta, Valletta Campus.

Mangion, M. (2024). Exploring Self-Regulation in Human-AI Collaborative Creativity: Implications for Education and Practice. Paper presented at the University of Malta Research Expo, Mediterranean Conference Centre.

Mangion, M. & Psaila, F. (January 2025). Think like a fraudster to catch a fraudster: Exploring the use of storytelling to deter fraud. Paper presented at the Virtual Possibility Studies Conference.

Mangion, M. & Ivcecic, Z. (2025). Teacher self-regulation and creative agency with GenAI. A qualitative study of educators' lesson design practices. Paper presented at the Marconi Institute for Creativity Conference, Bolzano, Italy

Mangion, M. & Valqueresma, A. (2025). Resistance to change and the creative self concept in teachers. Paper presented at the Marconi Institute for Creativity Conference, Bolzano, Italy.

Mangion, M. & Valqueresma, A., Zamana, F., & Grima, C. (2025). Exploring the links between creative self-beliefs, workplace affordances, and possibility thinking. Paper presented at the Possibility Studies Conference. Maynooth University, Ireland.

Pace, L. A. (2025). Harnessing nature-based solutions for sustainable ocean futures: a SET system analysis. R&D Management Conference 20th June 2nd July, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa Italy.

Pace, L.A. (2025) Stakeholder perceptions and intentions for action on sustainability futures. Possibilities Studies Network Conference, Virtual Conference.

Pace, L. A., & Morales-Caselles, C. (2025). Building a sustainable innovation ecosystem for the blue economy: the role of collaborative innovation. University of Malta Maritime Platform Conference - Innovations in Marine & Maritime Sustainable Developments: Research and Applications 7-9th May, University of Malta Valletta Campus.

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

Scicluna, R., Dingli, S.M., Church, R., Scicluna Derkowska, A. (May 2025) Balancing Tradition and Innovation: Academic Libraries for the 21st Century. Paper presented at the TAKE Multidisciplinary conference on intangibles, held at the University St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia, Bulgaria.

4.4 OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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.

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 ended 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 Professor Matthew Montebello, Dr Josef Bajada, and Dr Vanessa Camilleri (the latter three academics are 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. Professor Matthew Montebello also attended the third transnational meeting held at the University of Barcelona on the 3 and 4 June 2025. 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 'Exploring Self-Regulation in Human-AI Collaborative Creativity: Implications for Education and Practice'.

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and Prof. Margaret Mangion were awarded a seed fund by APS Bank. The seed fund was in favour of setting up and delivering a summer programme for teens with disabilities. The programme followed the principles of creative pedagogies.

4.5.4 *Heckman Stipend*

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli was awarded the Heckman Research Stipend by the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) at St John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota (US). She successfully completed a research visit to the Malta Study Centre at HMML from 26 August to 3 September 2025.

4.5.5 *Social Innovation*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and Prof. Margaret Mangion were invited by the ESF+ Managing Authority in Malta, the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD), to assist in a mapping exercise of the local Social Innovation (SI) ecosystem. An initial stakeholders' meeting was held on Zoom on 27th February with the aim of bringing together the local SI community and sharing more information about this project. This was followed by a mixed-methods study consisting of an online survey and semi-structured interviews, submission of a report to the PPCD, and a dissemination event. The next steps include the drafting of brief case studies highlighting examples of local SI best practice, and capacity building workshops for SI stakeholders.

4.6 EDITORIAL BOARDS, EXAMINATIONS & ADJUDICATION PANELS

4.6.1 *Editorial Board Membership and Academic Peer Reviewing (2024–2025)*

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino continued her duties as Associate Editor for the Journal of Enterprising Communities (Emerald) and Editorial Board Member at Strategic Change (Wiley). In relation to the latter, she is currently involved as Guest Editor for a forthcoming Special Issue on 'Entrepreneurial Decision-Making and Behavior under Radical Uncertainty'. As the lead Track Chair for EURAM's Standing Track on Entrepreneurial Cognition and Behaviour, Prof. Baldacchino coordinated the review of (61) papers submitted to the track. Prof. Baldacchino also formed part of the Scientific Committee for this year's edition of the UM Research Expo, and carried out reviews for various international journals, including: Journal of Creative Behavior (Wiley), Journal of Business Venturing (Elsevier), Academy of Management Learning & Education (Academy of Management), and International Review of Entrepreneurship (Senate Hall Academic Publishing).

In 2025 Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli acted as peer-reviewer for the *Religion and Society Conference 2024* proceedings organised by the Faculty of Theology at the University of Malta in collaboration with the Nicolaus Copernicus Superior School (Szkoła Główna Mikołaja Kopernika) in Warsaw, Poland.

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. Dingli reviewed various papers for academic journals. She was also appointed as a member of the Scientific Committee and as a Reviewer for papers for International Scientific Conference: 14th Days of Primary Schools A circle from science to the classroom, held on 2nd and 3rd October 2025 at University of Split, Croatia.

Prof. Mangion continued her duties as Associate Editor for Humanities and Social Sciences Communications (Nature) and as an advisor to the Journal of Enterprising Communities (Emerald). Prof. Mangion is currently on the Scientific Committee for the European Conference on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. She also reviewed articles for the following journals: Journal of Creative Behavior (Wiley), Management Decision (Emerald), Methods in Psychology (Elsevier), Possibility Studies and Society (Sage), Teaching and Teacher Education, (Elsevier), and Thinking Skills and Creativity (Elsevier). In addition she reviewed submitted abstracts for the Marconi Institute for Creativity Conference (2025). Prof. Mangion is also an Editorial Board Member for Palgrave Advances in Possibility Studies Series.

Dr Pace reviewed articles for the following journals: Futures (Elsevier), Journal of Sustainable Tourism (Taylor & Francis) and Environmental Science & Policy (Elsevier).

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli was invited to act as an External Expert in the Periodic Programme Review of the Faculty of Theology, University of Malta, in relation to the study unit Diploma in the Archival and Cultural Appreciation of Ecclesiastical Patrimony. The Stakeholders' Meeting was held on 31st May 2025.

4.6.2 Examination of Ph.D. theses

Dr Pace was one of the main discussants on the PhD panel for a Doctoral thesis submitted to the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences at the University of Algarve.

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino served as Internal Examiner for a Doctoral thesis submitted to the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering within the Faculty of Engineering.

4.6.2 Examination of M.Sc. dissertation

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli acted as Internal Examiner for a Master of Science dissertation, Department of the History of Architecture, Faculty of the Built Environment. The viva voce examination was held on Monday 28th July 2025.

4.6.4 Adjudication panels

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/>)

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino formed part of a panel of judges at an Entrepreneurship Bootcamp organized by Dr. Antonietta Rosiello, Lecturer at the Department of Business and Enterprise Management within FEMA at UM. Prof. Baldacchino also served as Head Judge for the JA Malta Startup Programme 2025.

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. In July 2025, Prof. Baldacchino was nominated the EURAM's (European Academy of Management) Entrepreneurship Special Interest Group (SIG) Programme Chair for a two-year term, while retaining her role as lead Track Chair for the Entrepreneurial Cognition and Behaviour Standing Track on (which forms part of the said SIG). Professor Baldacchino is also a Fellow of the ISSCI (International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation) 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 (Task 2.3) on Microcredentials and Future Skills for which Christian-Albrechts University in Kiel, Germany, is the task coordinator. Professor Sandra Dingli was also appointed Mentor for two early-career academics as part of the UM's academic mentoring pilot programme for the academic year 2024 - 2025.

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), Board Member and Secretary 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

2 – 3 October 2024 Innogreen (Erasmus+) project

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli and Prof. Sandra Dingli attended the concluding meeting of the Innogreen (Erasmus+) project held in Galati, Romania.

7 - 12 October 2024. Master in Creativity and Innovation

This week, the Institute welcomed a new cohort of 15 students who have joined the Master's in Creativity and Innovation in its new delivery format. The programme is structured around two intensive teaching weeks; one at the start of each semester, supplemented by blended learning throughout the rest of the year, combining synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning activities.

10 October 2024: FPEI Entrepreneurship for Creatives

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino conducted a workshop on 'Ideation, Problem-Solving and Entrepreneurship' as part of the 'Entrepreneurship for Creatives' programme, organised by the 'Foundation for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Initiatives' (FPEI) and held at the Valletta Design Cluster.

14 October 2024: Creativity for Engineers

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino conducted a workshop on 'Creativity and Problem-Solving' for students reading for the B.Eng Programme at UM.

18 October 2024: Launch of new training programme

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and Prof. Margaret Mangion attended the Malta Startup Fest where the Entrepreneurship Training programme for People with Disabilities was launched: <https://timesofmalta.com/article/entrepreneurship-training-programme-empower-people-disability.1099960>

This was a new 12-week online course that trains and empowers people with disabilities who wish to start their own business or become self-employed. It was offered by The Edward de Bono Institute in collaboration with the Foundation for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Initiatives (FPEI) and Technological University Dublin. Malta Enterprise financially supported the initiative, so it was

free of charge for all participants. Participants who successfully completed the programme were awarded a micro-credential qualification worth 5 ECTS from the Edward de Bono Institute.

29 October - 31 October 2024: Erasmus+ Staff Mobility: Assoc. Prof. Beata Poteralska

Assoc. Prof. Beata Poteralska from Jan Kochanowski University of Kielce, Poland, visited Malta as part of the Erasmus staff exchange programme. She delivered a lecture on Innovation, Leadership and Competencies to undergraduate students enrolled for IOT2005 and a second lecture on Barriers to technology transfer in R & D organisations to Masters students enrolled for IOT5029. Assoc. Prof. Poteralska was involved in a European funded project in which Professor Sandra Dingli had been involved, CIMULACT, funded as part of the EU's Horizon programmes.

28-31 October 2024: Erasmus+ Staff Mobility in Trento

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino visited the University of Trento on an Erasmus+ Staff Mobility, where she conducted lectures and workshops for students at the School of Innovation, and held meetings with researchers to discuss projects and collaboration. Her visit was arranged by Prof Andrea Caputo from the Department of Economics and Management, who is also a Visiting Professor at the Edward de Bono Institute.

07 November 2024: Festival of Ideas

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli participated as a panel speaker in the forum 'Climate Change, Lifestyle and Tourism' held as part of the Festival of Ideas organized by the Culture Directorate at the Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.

26 November 2024

Dr Lisa Pace organised a workshop titled: "SDG14 Beyond 2030: Charting a course for sustainable coastal and marine ecosystems" for stakeholders from the SEA-EU alliance attending the SEA-EU governing week in Malta. The workshop explored pathways to upscaling sustainability solutions for the coastal and marine ecosystems.

13 November & 10 December 2024: ISSCI Symposia

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino organized and chaired two online research symposia on entrepreneurship and creativity as part of the International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation (ISSCI) series on 13 November and 10 December 2024. The first symposium featured the following presentations: Integrating philosophy and psychology to enhance creativity and innovation in entrepreneurship: the W.O.M.B. model by Eduardo Manuel de Almeida Leite, School of Technology and Management at the University of Madeira, Portugal; Motivations and Intentions underlying Decisions to Pursue Senior Entrepreneurship by Sandro Sant'Anna, The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation, University of Malta; and Resilience, Decision Making and Sustainability in Entrepreneurship by Erica Santini, Department of Economics and Management, and School of Innovation, University of Trento, Italy. The second session comprised the following presentations: Entrepreneurs' use of Imagination in their Pivot Decisions by Laëtizia Gabay-Mariani, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, Strategy and Sustainable Development at Kedge Business School, France, Creativity in Entrepreneurship – An International Perspective by Sylvia Hubner-Benz,

Professor of International Management at Paderborn University, Germany, and Intuition in Entrepreneurial Ideation and Decision-Making by Leonie Baldacchino.

4 December 2024: Confronting Cyber Violence

Professor Sandra Dingli attended an event organised by UM's Equity Office on Confronting Cyber Violence.

10 December 2024: Book launch

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli was invited to act as speaker at the launch of a book by Professor Emeritus Stanley Fiorini, held at the Immacolata Oratory in Valletta.

13 - 17 January 2025: Studies in Creative Cognition at the Lorentz Centre - Netherlands.

Prof. Margaret Mangion was invited to a week-long workshop dedicated to identifying emerging research in creative cognition with a particular focus on the areas of knowledge domain, metacognition, and emotions.

23 January 2025: Summer Programme for Teens with Disabilities.

Following the submission of a proposal, APS Bank awarded Prof. Margaret Mangion and Prof. Leonie Baldacchino a seed fund by means of a sponsorship to support the programme. The University of Malta is also supporting the programme.

23 January 2025: OECD Webinar

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended the online launch of the OECD Trends Shaping Education. The 2025 edition of Trends Shaping Education explores how rising inequality, polarisation, and technological advances—particularly in AI and VR—could reshape teaching and learning. It also considers how education can prepare for climate emergencies and mental health crises, introducing future thinking tools to guide policymakers and practitioners. Offering an internationally comparative perspective for all education levels, the report aims to foster reflection on how education might adapt to and influence these global forces.

27 January 2025: International Humanistic Management Association Webinar. Fostering Dignity and Well-Being at Work: A View from Psychology of Working.

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a webinar delivered by Professor David L. Bluestein from the Department of Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology at Boston College, the presentation addressed dignity and well-being at work for management, organisational development, and career professionals. It integrated the psychology of working, emphasising how structural and psychological factors shape the nature of work. Linking to the humanistic management movement, it highlights fostering humane conditions through new conceptual models. Future research directions explore the relationship between decent and meaningful work, culminating in innovations around dignity at work.

30 January 2025: OECD Webinar. How to create inclusive classrooms for children with special education needs

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a webinar addressing strategies for developing inclusive learning environments that cater to children with diverse needs, including dyslexia, autism, and ADHD. Presenters emphasised how such classrooms benefit all learners, fostering empathy, understanding, and collaboration. Topics covered included designing supportive physical spaces, implementing inclusive policies, and utilising teaching methods tailored to a range of abilities. Participants discussed the importance of appropriate resources and collaboration among teachers, parents, and specialists, ultimately aiming to ensure every pupil reaches their full potential.

30 January 2025: Creativity Community of Practice (C-COP) online meeting

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended the first 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.

5 February 2025: Mellifera Masterclass

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered an online masterclass titled “AI for Good Innovation Factory” to entrepreneurs working in the field of artificial intelligence. The masterclass was a part of a bootcamp organised for Artificial Intelligence for Good (AIFG) led by Mellifera and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), is a United Nations initiative.

11 February 2025: Teacher Training

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a full-day workshop about Artificial Intelligence in Education to all teaching staff at Marsaskala Primary School.

11 February 2025:

Professor Sandra Dingli attended and participated in a discussion session organized by the Department of Tourism Management at UM on ‘Tertiary Teaching and Learning: The Challenges and Opportunities of GenAI’.

11 & 14 February 2025: Launch of two Microcredentials

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino coordinated the introduction of two new Micro-Credentials. These are IOT1009 - A Toolkit for Thinking Out of the Box and IOT1102 - Entrepreneurship Training for People with Disabilities.

19 February 2025: OECD YEPA

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino participated in the OECD’s Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (YEPA)’s online workshop on ‘Entrepreneurship Skills and Mindsets’

21 February 2025: Entrepreneurship Programme for People with Disabilities.

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a workshop on idea generation session to the students following the programme.

24 February 2025: International Association of Humanistic Management Seminar on Arts and Wellbeing.

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a webinar organised by the International Association of Humanistic Management. The webinar was delivered by Tim Lomas, PhD, is a Psychology Research Scientist in the Department of Epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and part of the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University. During the webinar, Prof. Lomas referred to the relevance of the arts to wellbeing as an established concept within clinical fields, as reflected in therapeutic forms based on various art modalities, from music to drama therapy. He also discussed how the arts could be a vehicle for flourishing and fulfilment, with the label of "positive art".

25 February 2025: Co-teaching teams for SeaBlue Bachelor degree programme.

Dr. Lisa Pace attended a preparatory meeting of the Co-Teaching Teams on the new SEA-EU Bachelors degree on the Blue Economy that is expected to launch in September 2025. Dr. Pace is part of a team of SEA-EU academics who will be delivering lectures on the joint Bachelors' programme. Follow-up team meetings were held on 14th and 24th March and the 5th May.

25 February 2025: Information session for prospective Diploma and Master students

An information session was organised by Prof. Margaret Mangion and Dr Lisa Pace. The session attracted twelve prospective students currently considering to join the Master in Creativity and Innovation.

26 February 2025: Visit by students following the Master in Imagineering at BREDA University, The Netherlands

The current cohort on the Master in Creativity and Innovation together with Prof. Margaret Mangion hosted a group of students visiting from Breda University. In line with the new mode of delivery, the session took place online where students from both universities delivered parts of the lecture in an interactive exchange.

27 February 2025: Social Innovation Mapping Stakeholders' Meeting

Prof. Margaret Mangion and Prof. Leonie Baldacchino were invited by the ESF+ Managing Authority in Malta, the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), to assist in a mapping exercise of the local Social Innovation ecosystem. An initial stakeholders' meeting was held on Zoom on 27th February with the aim of bringing together the local SI community and sharing more information about this project.

28 February 2025: Workshop delivery

Prof. Margaret Mangion was invited to deliver a workshop to staff from the Coordination and Implementation Division from the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta. The half day workshop focused on the need for creativity and creative thinking to address challenges of the 21st Century.

03 March 2025: Carousel Week

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino conducted a workshop on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship for undergraduate Engineering students from Malta, France and Sicily, who were participating in the Carousel Week organized by the Faculty of Engineering as part of an EU-funded project.

05 March 2025: AI Workshop

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino attended the ‘Exploring Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Research and Publishing’ workshop at UM.

06 March 2025: Periodic Programme Review Panel

Prof. Margaret Mangion was invited to be on the panel for a Periodic Programme Review of the Centre for Resilience & Socio-Emotional Health.

06 March 2025: Potential collaboration with the University of Exeter

Prof. Margaret Mangion was invited to attend a meeting held at the Faculty of Education in relation to a collaboration with the University of Exeter on creative and transdisciplinary pedagogies. This meeting is a spin off from the SciCultured Conference held in November, where Prof. Mangion delivered a workshop.

07 March 2025: Teacher Training

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered a full-day workshop about Artificial Intelligence in Education to all teaching staff at Zurrieq Primary School.

07 March 2025: Launch of the Women’s Archive at UM

Professor Sandra Dingli attended the launch of the Women’s Archive at UM held at the UM Valletta Campus.

07 March 2025: YOBE Workshop

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino conducted a thinking skills workshop for a delegation of Young Olympic Board Executives (YOBE), typically aged between 33 and 40 years, from various European Olympic Committees. The participants were in Malta for an event aimed at enhancing their executive skills and confidence, and strengthening their networks.

11 March 2025: DOC6010 Introduction to Critical and Creative Thinking

Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered an interactive half day workshop to doctoral students at UM.

12 March 2025: Symposium on Creativity and Culture

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a Symposium Creativity and Culture organised by the International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation.

12 March 2025

Dr. Lisa Pace was invited to attend a stakeholders' meeting on 'Shaping Malta's Future through a National Skills Strategy and Targeted Maritime Sector Measures' organised by the National Skills Council. During the event, the OECD presented an overview of the key action areas for improvement and international best practices relevant to the local context. Stakeholder roundtable discussions focussed on validating the assessment of skills gaps in the maritime sector and explore solutions and action areas. As a follow-up, Dr Pace attended the Skills Gap Analysis on the Maritime Sector organised by the OECD on the 12th May 2025, with preliminary results on the skills supply and demand in the maritime sector. This is part of Dr. Pace's work on the SEA-EU Observatory of the blue Economy.

12 March 2025: Graduation Ceremony

Ten students graduated with a Master in Creativity and Innovation, and one student graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in Innovation. Prof. Margaret Mangion sponsored the ceremony.

13 March 2025: National Skills Council

Prof. Margaret Mangion held a cordial meeting with Dr Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando, Chairman, and Mr Clayton Micallef Grimaud, Senior Director of the National Skills Council. The parties discussed potential areas for future collaboration.

13 March 2025

Dr. Lisa Pace attended a meeting of the SEA-EU Sustainable Blue Economy Observatory in her role as ambassador for the university. The agenda related to discussion on disseminating the 2nd round of the survey on 'Blue skills and higher education'. The survey was disseminated among stakeholders in Malta in mid-March

17 March 2025: World Creativity and Innovation Week Ambassador's meeting

As a member of the European Board and Ambassador for Malta, Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a planning and coordination meeting ahead of WCIW 2025.

20 March 2025: Wellbeing Index Annual Event

Prof. Margaret Mangion was invited to attend the Malta Wellbeing Index Annual event. Under the patronage of the President Emerita Dr Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, during this event, the latest statistics indicating the wellbeing index for people living on Malta were announced.

28 March 2025: OECD Webinar, Women Girls and AI: Paving the way to a balanced digital future

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a webinar which discussed how AI is reshaping the global workforce and can either narrow or widen gender gaps. The OECD webinar convened experts to explore AI's impact on women's employment, the role of education in closing digital divides, and inclusive AI strategies. From recruitment algorithms to workplace monitoring, AI can reinforce or dismantle systemic biases. The session also explored innovative programmes and policies, from early education to lifelong learning, ensuring AI is built by and for everyone.

02 April 2025: St Albert the Great School. World Creativity and Innovation Week event

On 2 April, around fifty Year 7 students at St Albert came together for a special workshop in celebration of World Creativity and Innovation Week. During this session, they explored the concept of possibility thinking by imagining and designing their dream jobs, while reflecting on their own strengths and identifying areas they wish to develop. By taking time to think creatively about their futures, these students expanded their horizons and strengthened the skills needed for personal growth. This enjoyable and inspiring activity encouraged them to embrace new ideas, boosting their confidence in shaping both their present and future paths. Led by Prof. Margaret Mangion with the support of Ms Natalie Lombardi Calleja and Ms Roberta Trapani Maggi, this activity was a joint collaboration between the Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation, University of Malta with the Department of Curriculum Entitlement within the Secretariat for Catholic Education Malta.

02-12 April – Visiting PhD Student from the University of Trento

Ms Silvia Delladio, a Ph.D. Student in Entrepreneurship from the University of Trento, Italy, carried out her Doctoral Visiting Period at The Edward de Bono Institute under Prof. Leonie Baldacchino's supervision.

03 April 2025: Science Students for Water – Creativity in a Changing Climate – World Creativity and Innovation Week event

During the activity, Science students from the Prof Edward de Bono, Handaq Middle School were divided into teams, each receiving a card with a specific water conservation measure to apply at school and home. Following an introduction to a creative thinking method, aimed to help students explore and develop their assigned measure, each team generated ideas about how they would address the topic. Each group shared the ideas generated with the class. Mentors from the UM guided the students, helping them refine their ideas and think outside the box. By the end of the session the students had thought of practical and creative solutions to conserve.

Organised by Prof. Margaret Mangion and led by Dr Censu Caruana and Dr Julian Mamo, this activity was a joint collaboration between the Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation, The Institute of Earth Systems and The Centre for Environmental Education & Research.

04 April 2025: Collective Creative Cognition Meeting

Following the Lorentz Workshop held at Leiden University, The Netherlands, Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a follow-up conference in January 2025. During the workshop a special journal issue was discussed and workgroups were formed.

07 April 2025: World Creativity and Innovation Week Workshop

An interactive workshop was held to enhance creativity and innovation skills, recognising the increasing importance of idea generation in the 21st century. The session targeted both professional and personal contexts within the university environment. This event was organised by Professor Sandra Dingli (member of the UM Library Committee, hosted by the UM Library and delivered by Prof. Margaret Mangion.

07 April 2025: Guest lecture

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli was invited to give a guest lecture to post-graduate students taking LIA5026 (Library Information and Archive Sciences).

08 April 2025: Solve & Share – World Creativity and Innovation Week Event

Students and staff gathered on the Library Terrace to celebrate World Creativity and Innovation Week by sharing challenges, ideas, and words of encouragement at the “Share & Solve” event. Organised as a hands-on, community-driven activity, participants had the opportunity to anonymously post personal or academic challenges on “Big Boards,” inviting creative solutions and support from passers-by.

The event was organised by the Edward de Bono Institute in collaboration with the Dr Carmen Mangion Deputy Registrar and the Student Help Hub.

09 April 2025: Malta Digital Innovation Authority Talk.

Prof. Margaret Mangion was invited to deliver a talk to female students at Ta` Paris Middle School. The aim of the talk was to encourage female participation in the world of work. Prof. Mangion spoke about the need to harness transversal skills including the five pillars of the institute to foster the development of the self.

09 April 2025: Word Creativity and Innovation Week - Guest Speaker

Mr Owen Spiteri founder of Maltalink.mt, G7, and MaltaDaily was invited by Prof. Margaret Mangion to make a guest intervention during a lecture for the current students on the Master programme. Mr Spiteri spoke about contemporary marketing trends and how to navigate the customer journey in the digital age.

15 April 2025: Word Creativity and Innovation Week Symposium

In her capacity as Secretary of the International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation, Professor Margaret Mangion organised and chaired an online symposium for doctoral students and post docs. With presenters from Europe and beyond the symposium attracted an attendance of approximately 50 scholars from around the world.

24 April 2025: Webinar. GenAI in Action: Practical Applications of AI Tools for Teaching and Learning

Prof. Mangion attended a webinar titled “GenAI in Action: Practical Applications of AI Tools for Teaching and Learning” organised by Harvard Business Publishing Education. During the webinar the use of adaptive chatbots, and generative AI as tools to engage students through personalised learning experiences were explored. Associate Dean of the Love School of Business at Elon University, Haya Aijan, discussed how AI tools can be used to enhance student engagement.

29 April 2025: Mastering psychology research: From peer review to publication

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended a webinar titled “Mastering psychology research: From peer review to publication.” The webinar organised by Sage Publishing. Designed for psychologists and psychology researchers, the webinar focused on developing essential skills for writing and structuring academic manuscripts. The review process was also discussed during the webinar.

29 April 2025

Dr Pace attended a workshop organised by EY on ‘CHANGE: Envisioning Malta’s Climate Futures’ organised at the Malta Chamber in Valletta. During the workshop the EY team presented four different futures for Malta under different climate futures and the implications on the socio-economic development.

6 May 2025: Creative Thinking Training to teachers of Ethics

Prof. Mangion was invited to deliver a training session during a COPE session organised by the Ethics department within the Ministry of Education. Prof. Mangion facilitated an introduction to the six thinking hats to a group of about 40 ethics teachers from state, and independent Maltese schools.

08-09 May 2025: Lincoln Entrepreneurship and Innovation Colloquium, UK

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino participated as a keynote speaker in the third edition of the Lincoln Entrepreneurship and Innovation Colloquium (LEIC), held at Lincoln University Business School, UK, with a presentation titled ‘Doing Well and Being Well: Balancing Progress and Presence’. She also provided mentorship to early-career scholars from over 15 countries by means of formative feedback on their research works in progress.

15 May 2025: Turnitin Marking and Feedback Workshop

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino attended the ‘Enhancing Marking & Feedback Practices with Turnitin’ workshop at UM.

21 May 2025: Annual Prof. Edward de Bono Memorial Lecture

Prof. Margaret Mangion hosted the annual memorial lecture in honour of Prof. Edward de Bono. Prof. Gerard Puccio from Buffalo State University, New York USA, was invited to deliver the lecture. During his lecture titled "The Enduring Power of Creativity in the 21st Century", Prof. Puccio spoke about Dr. Edward de Bono as a visionary—a trailblazer who championed the power of creativity long before it became a recognized necessity in today's fast-changing world. The webinar was attended by approximately 90 delegates.

28 May 2025: Launch of a book

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli was invited to give a presentation at the launch of the book *Casa Manresa in Floriana: A House of Formation*, edited by Rev. Dr Nicholas Doublet. The launch was held at the Archbishop's Curia in Floriana in the presence of Mgr Charles J. Scicluna, Archbishop of Malta.

28 May 2025: UM Research Expo 2025

The Edward de Bono Institute was represented at the University of Malta Research Expo 2025 by Prof. Margaret Mangion, Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and Prof. Sandra Dingli, along with PhD candidates Sandro Sant'Anna and Oliver Saliba, who delivered thought-provoking presentations showcasing their latest research on creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and foresight. Prof. Baldacchino also served on the Scientific Committee and as session chair of the PhD candidates' parallel session.

2 June 2025: Erasmus+ REMED project

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli participated in the Erasmus+ REMED project 'Re-Visiting the Mediterranean: Literature, Culture, Environment', giving a lecture as part of the Spring School May–June 2025. This project is co-organised by the University of Malta, the National University of Ireland Maynooth, Università degli Studi di Firenze, University of Cyprus, and Carthage University, and is co-financed by the EU under the Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnerships in Higher Education (KA220-HED) scheme.

3 June 2025: Creative Conversations

This session was organised by Prof. Penny Hayes from the Centre for Policy Pedagogy and Practice at Bath Spa University, UK. Led by Prof. Saville Kushner an experienced pedagogist, the session explored the death of the curriculum in the light of new reforms proposed by the government in England based on a report published by Prof. Becky Francis CBE. Prof. Francis was commissioned to convene and chair a panel of experts to conduct the Curriculum and Assessment Review.

4 June 2025: Trends Spotting: Strategic foresight for tomorrow's education systems - OECD.

Prof. Mangion attended a forward-looking session centred on the OECD report *Trends Shaping Education 2025*, which explored how today's global forces are influencing the education systems of the future. The discussion examined the impacts of rising geopolitical tensions, rapid technological

advancements, and profound shifts in the nature of work. These ongoing dynamics, coupled with unpredictable future shocks, underscore the complexity of planning for education in an uncertain world.

03-04 June 2025: Research Integrity in the Age of AI Workshop, Italy

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino participated in a workshop on 'Research Integrity in the Age of AI', where she delivered a keynote address and participated in the 'Meet the Editors' discussion panel. This event was held at the University of Trento, Italy, as part of the EUREGIO (Europaregion Tirol) Program for Integrity and Best Practices in Management Research.

05-07 June 2025: SABE Conference, Italy

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino attended the SABE (Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics) at the University of Trento, Italy, which included a keynote address by world-renowned author Prof. Gerd Gigerenzer on 'Homo Heuristicus: Decision Making in an Uncertain World'. Prof Baldacchino presented her chapter on 'Art, Culture and Wellbeing: Reaping the Rewards of Creativity', which was very recently published in the edited book 'Wellbeing and Policy: Evidence for Action' by Routledge.

9 June 2025: SEA-EU Event

Dr Lisa Pace participated in the SEA-EU virtual side event entitled "Bridging Sustainability to the Global Coastal Areas of Our Only Ocean", held on 9 June 2025 in the framework of the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference organised by the University of Algarve, within the framework of the SEA-EU. This event brought together academic and societal stakeholders from across the SEA-EU Alliance and beyond, to exchange good practices, foster international collaboration, and reinforce the collective commitment to SDG 14 – Life Below Water

10 June 2025: The teaching profession reimagined: From classroom innovation to system-level transformation – OECD

Prof. Margaret Mangion attended the webinar organised by the OECD. During the insightful session a panel explored the evolving role of the teaching profession and its potential for transformation. The discussion focused on how the future of teaching will depend significantly on its capacity to innovate often beginning at the classroom level.

19 June 2025: YEPA Webinar

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino delivered a presentation on 'Designing Youth Entrepreneurship Policies and Programmes' during the final webinar of the OECD's Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (YEPA) series, in which she offered various recommendations based on her research.

21-25 June 2025: EURAM Doctoral Colloquium and Annual Conference, Italy

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino attended the European Academy of Management (EURAM) Annual Conference, held at the University of Florence, Italy. On 21-22 June, she served as a mentor during the Doctoral Colloquium, and from 23-25 June she participated in all the paper sessions held as part

of the Standing Track on Entrepreneurial Cognition and Behaviour (ST03_03), of which she is the lead Track Chair. She also moderated a panel discussion on 'Entrepreneurial Cognition and Behaviour in Inclusive Entrepreneurship' as part of an interdisciplinary symposium titled 'Reviving the Roundtable on Inclusive Entrepreneurship' which she co-organised with researchers from other tracks within the Entrepreneurship Special Interest Group. During this conference, PhD candidate Sandro Sant'Anna presented a paper co-authored with Prof. Baldacchino titled 'Finding Purpose in Later Life: Motivations and Intentions in Senior Entrepreneurship' and participated as a panellist in the above-mentioned symposium.

3 July 2025: SEA-EU Event

Dr. Lisa Pace was awarded a University of Malta SEA-EU Research Seed Fund 2025 for her proposal titled: POSEIDON – Exploring Pathways toward Sustainable Ocean futures: tensions, trade-offs, and just transitions. The project will be implemented in collaboration with the University of Algarve, Portugal.

10 July 2025: CareerScape 2025 – NSC

Prof. Mangion participated as a panelist in the official launch of *CareerScape 2025*, organised by the National Skills Council as the first in a series of national workshops. The event brought together key representatives from the Health, Social Care, and Education & Training sectors to engage in dialogue between industry practitioners, educators, and students on Malta's growing skills disconnect. The panel discussions explored future-oriented approaches, shared challenges, and practical recommendations to ensure better alignment between the skills being developed and the evolving needs of the labour market.

18 July 2025: SEA-EU

As part of her role as UM Ambassador to the SEA-EU Blue Economy Observatory, Dr Pace held a meeting with the University of Cádiz to discuss the follow-up to the Coastal SWOT exercise, in preparation for the Being SEA-EU Conference to be held in Cádiz in October 2025.

21 July 2025: Student Feedback Focus Group

Students enrolled on the Master in Creativity and Innovation were invited to take part in a focus group to give feedback on their experience on the programme. The purpose of the session was to gather qualitative feedback on the full cycle of the taught component delivered through the blended learning format introduced in October 2024.

The focus group brought together eight students from a cohort of fourteen and ran for approximately 60 minutes. The discussion generated rich insights into students' experiences of the programme.

July - August 2025: Summer Programme for Teens with Disabilities

Professor Mangion and Professor Leonie Baldacchino, organised a Summer Programme for Teens with Disabilities. The programme was supported by the University of Malta, APS Bank, and the

Department of Education. A group of eight teens with different disabilities benefited from the programme.

1 September 2025: Professor Jari JI Kaivooja from Finland

Professor Sandra Dingli met Professor Jari JI Kaivooja from Business Finland, University of Vaasa, Business Finland, University of Turku, University of Vaasa and European Commission, MSCA Program, University of Turku, Finland to discuss potential future collaboration.

03-06 September 2025: MIC Conference, Italy

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and Prof. Margaret Mangion attended the Marconi Institute of Creativity conference in Bolzano, Italy.

Prof. Baldacchino presented a study titled 'Creative Jam: Jazz Improvisation and Idea Generation', chaired a research paper session, and participated in the Annual General Assembly of the ISSCI (International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation).

Prof. Mangion presented the papers titled "Exploring the Impact of Resistance to Change on Fostering Creative Attitudes in Teachers", and "Teacher Self-Regulation and Creative Agency with GenAI. A Qualitative Study of Educators' Lesson Design Practices". She chaired a research paper session, while in her role as Secretary of the Society, Prof. Mangion co-chaired the Annual General Assembly of the ISSCI.

4.9 GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK (GEW): 6–20 NOVEMBER 2024



For the seventeenth 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:

6 November: *National Ecosystem Showcase: Resources, Incentives and Support* (online)

The aim of this online session was to provide information on the funding opportunities, facilities and support measures that are available for entrepreneurs in Malta. It was held on Wednesday 6th November 2024 from 17.00 to 19.30, and featured presentations by various speakers representing key players in the local entrepreneurship ecosystem, including Malta Enterprise, Xjenza Malta, Trade Malta, The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, and the Foundation for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Initiatives. This session was targeted primarily towards entrepreneurship students at the University of Malta but was of interest to anyone who would like to start up a business in Malta. It was therefore also open to the general public, free of charge.

8/9 November: HYBRIDA Workshop (in person at The Edward de Bono Institute)

This workshop offered creatives and entrepreneurs an opportunity to engage with innovative methods that were developed over the previous year during the HYBRIDA (short for 'hybrid value-based interdisciplinary design approach for data-intensive software systems') project. HYBRIDA aimed to develop methods and tools to support interdisciplinary collaboration in teams to foster creativity and communication, resulting in products and services focused on user needs and values. The methods guide workshop participants through the stages of problem definition and idea generation, based on a unique framework that focuses on values early in the process and uses tangible elements. Participants benefited from learning new approaches to problem-solving and idea generation. They were also sensitised to prioritise user needs and values when developing products or services that include, for example, AI components.

12 November: Creativity and Idea Generation Workshop (in person)

This interactive workshop equipped participants with key skills to unlock their creativity and generate business ideas. They practiced shifting their perspective to view problems as potential opportunities, and apply a creative thinking technique to inspire innovation. This session was reserved for Master in Entrepreneurship students at the University of Malta.

13 November: ISSCI Entrepreneurship Symposium (online)

The Edward de Bono Institute hosted an online symposium on entrepreneurship on behalf of the International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation (ISSCI), as part of GEW 2024. The symposium was chaired by Prof. Leonie Baldacchino and featured three presentations, as follows:

Integrating philosophy and psychology to enhance creativity and innovation in entrepreneurship: the W.O.M.B. model by Eduardo Manuel de Almeida Leite, School of Technology and Management at the University of Madeira, Portugal

Motivations and Intentions underlying Decisions to Pursue Senior Entrepreneurship by Sandro Sant'Anna, The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation, University of Malta, Malta

Resilience, Decision Making and Sustainability in Entrepreneurship by Erica Santini, Department of Economics and Management, and School of Innovation, University of Trento, Italy
This symposium was reserved for ISSCI members and guests.

15 November: Entrepreneurship for Persons with Disabilities Pre-Programme Workshop (online)

This was a two-hour pre-programme workshop on business idea generation for prospective applicants of the Institute's new online entrepreneurship training programme for people with disabilities. The aim of this session was to help spark creativity and guide participants toward potential ventures.

19 November: Innovation in Surgery (online)

The European Association for Endoscopic Surgery (EAES) invited GEW Malta Host Prof. Leonie Baldacchino to deliver a presentation on 'Innovation as a Science' during a webinar on 'Innovation in Surgery', held as part of the Association's 'Rising Stars Academy'. Prof Baldacchino spoke about the general principles of innovation and entrepreneurial mindsets and discussed how these are relevant and applicable in the field of medicine and surgery.

20 November: UM MBA Business Pitching Event (in person)

This event, which has become an annual feature of the GEW Malta programme, offered International 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. Project deliverables of the elective programme shall require the students to engage in an extended feasibility study to assess the potential of their business ideas, as a prelude to potentially pursuing the concept and entrepreneurial opportunity further. This event was organised by Dr Nathaniel Massa, Senior Lecturer at the University of Malta' Department of Management, in collaboration with The Edward de Bono Institute, and was reserved for the University of Malta's International MBA students.



4.10 WORLD CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION WEEK (15–21 April 2025)

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, 21st 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 2025 – Doctoral Workshop: Critical and Creative Thinking

In collaboration with the Doctoral School, the Institute hosted a workshop for PhD students on the importance of integrating critical and creative thinking into academic writing and research. Delivered by Prof. Margaret Mangion, the session emphasised critical engagement with scholarly resources.

SDG 4 – Quality Education; SDG 17 – Partnership for the Goals

2 April 2025 – Possibility Thinking with Year 7 Students

A lively and imaginative session at St Albert the Great School invited around 50 Year 7 students to explore their aspirations by designing their "dream jobs." Facilitated by Prof. Mangion, with support from Ms Natalie Lombardi Calleja and Ms Roberta Trapani Maggi, the workshop encouraged self-reflection and engagement with possibility thinking.

SDG 4 – Quality Education; SDG 17 – Partnership for the Goals

3 April 2025 – Creativity in a Changing Climate

At St Ignatius College, Prof. Edward de Bono Handaq Middle School, science students participated in a workshop on water conservation through creative thinking. Facilitated by Prof. Mangion, Dr Censu Caruana, and Dr Julian Mamo, students developed actionable conservation plans using innovative methods.

This workshop was jointly organised by the Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation, the Institute of Earth Systems, and the Centre for Environmental Education & Research, highlighting the University of Malta's commitment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

SDG4 Quality Education and SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

7 April 2025 – Creative Thinking Workshop at the UM Library

An interactive workshop was held to enhance creativity and innovation skills, recognising the increasing importance of idea generation in the 21st century. The session targeted both professional and personal contexts within the university environment. This event was organised by Professor Sandra Dingli (member of the UM Library Committee), hosted by the UM Library, and delivered by Prof. Margaret Mangion.

SDG 4 – Quality Education

8 April 2025 – Solve & Share Event

Students and staff gathered on the Library Terrace to celebrate World Creativity and Innovation Week by sharing challenges, ideas, and words of encouragement at the “Share & Solve” event. Organised as a hands-on, community-driven activity, participants had the opportunity to anonymously post personal or academic challenges on Big Boards, inviting creative solutions and support from passers-by.

The event was organised in collaboration with the Student Help Hub.

SDG 4 – Quality Education; SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

29 April 2025 – Workshop for Nurses: Creative Problem Solving in Policy

The Edward de Bono Institute for Creativity and Innovation, in partnership with the Ministry for Active Ageing, provided a group of 40 nurses with training in creative problem-solving techniques. During the half-day workshop, participants took part in various activities designed to spark creativity and encourage the application of these techniques in future planning efforts aimed at shaping active ageing policies. Prof. Margaret Mangion delivered the workshop.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

7 May 2025 – Business Workshop with a Leading Local Bank

Prof. Margaret Mangion led a specialised workshop for 40 delegates from a major Maltese bank. The session explored how creative thinking can enhance strategic planning and innovation within the corporate sector.

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

8 May 2025 – Sensory Processing and Self-Regulation Workshop

Dr Nathalie Buhagiar and Ms Ramona Vella Vidal delivered an engaging session to increase awareness of sensory systems and their impact on learning and wellbeing. Participants learned practical strategies for achieving self-regulation.

SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing; SDG 4 – Quality Education

8 May 2025 – Inner Development Goals Workshop

Ms Pia Vassallo introduced students enrolled on the course titled A Toolkit for Thinking Out of the Box to the Inner Development Goals (IDGs) framework. Through reflective and collaborative exercises, students explored how creativity can drive inner and societal transformation. They 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 Vassallo facilitated the session on behalf of the IDG Valletta Community Hub. Prof. Sandra Dingli from the Edward de Bono Institute hosted the lecture.

SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing; SDG 4 – Quality Education; SDG 17 – Partnership for the Goals

5.0 GOVERNANCE PROFILE

5.1 INSTITUTE BOARD

The Edward de Bono Institute is governed by a Board. During the academic year 2024–25, board meetings were held on 21 January 2025, 10 April 2025, 11 June 2025 and 11 September 2025.

During the academic year 2024–2025 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

Dr. Lisa Pace (Member)

Senior Lecturer, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

Professor Vincent Cassar (Member)

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

Professor Matthew Montebello (Member)

Head of Department, Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Information & Communication Technology, University of Malta

Ms Darine Aboulezz (Student representative)

Master in Creativity and Innovation

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 2024–25, doctoral committee meetings were held on 22 October 2024, 1 April 2025, 9 June 2025 and 15 July 2025.

During the academic year 2024–2025 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

Senior Lecturer, The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

5.3 STAFF MEETINGS

During the academic year 2024–2025, Institute staff meetings were held on 22 October 2024, 27 November 2024, 29 January 2025, 26 February 2025, 26 March 2025, 30 April 2025, and 9 June 2025

5.3 BOARD OF EXAMINER MEETINGS

During the academic year 2024–2025, Institute Board of Examiners meetings were held on 12 October 2024, 18 March 2025, 15 July 2025 and 25 August 2025.

6.0 PLANNING PROFILE

6.1 PROGRAMMES OF STUDY FOR 2025–2026

During the current academic year, the Institute successfully introduced a new blended delivery model for the Master in Creativity and Innovation, structured around two intensive teaching weeks complemented by synchronous and asynchronous learning throughout each semester. This format was piloted with a new cohort of students and formally reviewed through a focus group held in July, which provided valuable qualitative insight into student experiences of the full teaching cycle.

Building on this evidence base, planning for the next academic year will focus on consolidating and refining the blended model. Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening the coherence between intensive teaching weeks and online components, enhancing opportunities for interaction and peer learning, and ensuring clarity and consistency across modules. Feedback from students will be used to improve the balance between in-person and digital activities, as well as to support more effective sequencing of learning tasks across the semester.

In addition, the Institute plans to further develop its curriculum and learning design to ensure that the programme continues to reflect best practice in creativity and innovation education. This will include reviewing assessment strategies, strengthening alignment with professional and industry contexts, and enhancing academic and pastoral support for students studying in blended mode.

7.0 MEDIA APPEARANCES AND PRESS COVERAGE

7.1 SOCIAL MEDIA

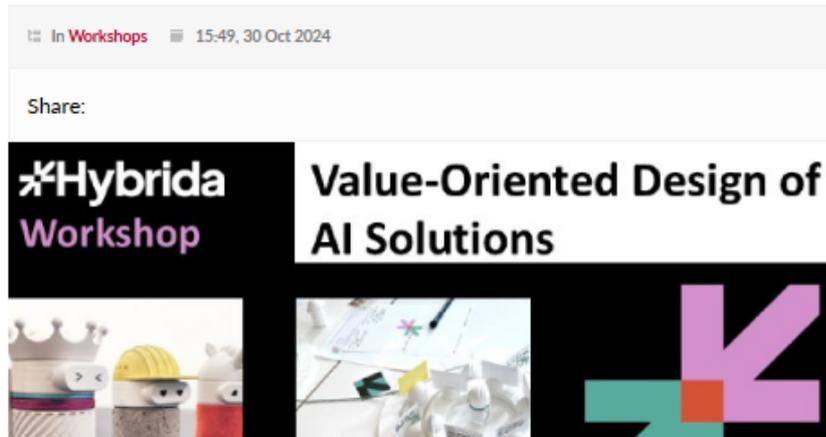
The Edward de Bono Institute has an active Facebook page with around 7,000 followers. The page is updated regularly and it promotes and showcases all the Institute initiatives and courses.



7.2 Other media

Value-Oriented Design of AI Solutions

Newspoint > Events > University > 2024 > November > Value-Oriented Design of AI Solutions



Event: Value-Oriented Design of AI Solutions
Dates: 8 and 9 November 2024
Time: 16:00-19:00 (November 8); 09:00-14:00 (November 9)
Venue: The Edward de Bono Institute, University of Malta

AI has become an integral part of our lives and is also ever-present in the world of entrepreneurship, with many new business ideas based on data and algorithms. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly important to use AI in a responsible way that puts users' needs and values first.

Join us for this interactive workshop and explore how tangible creative tools can be used to put users' individual values at the centre of the design of data-intensive applications by supporting communication and ideation within the team.

The workshop will be conducted by Prof. Claudia Nass-Bauer and Ms Jasmin Riebel from Mainz University of Applied Sciences. They shall introduce participants to an innovative method and creative tools that they developed as part of the [HYBRIDA project](#).

Participation is free of charge, but we can offer only a few places due to the limited availability of tools that will be used in the session.

Registration is available [online](#).

This workshop will be held over two half days (Friday 8 November from 16:00-19:00, and Saturday 9 November from 09:00-14:00) at [The Edward de Bono Institute](#), University of Malta, as part of [Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024](#).

See More



Bio-Materials in Construction Workshops by Visiting Academic from VIT India

WORKSHOPS 07:07, 07 Aug 2025



Workshop: Living Abroad Away From Home

WORKSHOPS 12:34, 21 Jul 2025



Training session - Student Progression Process

WORKSHOPS 10:32, 14 Jul 2025

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<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/events/um/2024/11/value-oriented-design-ai-solutions>

Fostering Collaboration: Participation in the Development of a New Research Agenda on Creative Cognition

Newspoint > News > 2025 > January > Fostering Collaboration: Participation in the Development of a New Research Agenda on Creative Cognition



Prof. Margaret Mangion, Director of the Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation, participated in a workshop entitled "Building a collective approach to creative cognition" at the Lorentz Centre in Leiden, Netherlands, from Monday 13 January - Friday 17 January 2025. This event marked the opening of the 2025 calendar for the creativity studies community and encouraged collaborative exploration of future scientific questions in creative cognition research.

Bringing together leading European scholars, the workshop aimed to reach agreement on key definitional issues within three core themes: the knowledge domain, emotions, and creative metacognition. By uniting diverse expertise, the organisers sought to establish networks for sharing paradigms and strengthening collaborations across multiple laboratories. These efforts will bolster interdisciplinary initiatives and deepen understanding of creative processes.

Prof. Mangion's engagement underscores the Edward de Bono Institute's dedication to advancing both theoretical and practical insights in the field of creativity research.

See More



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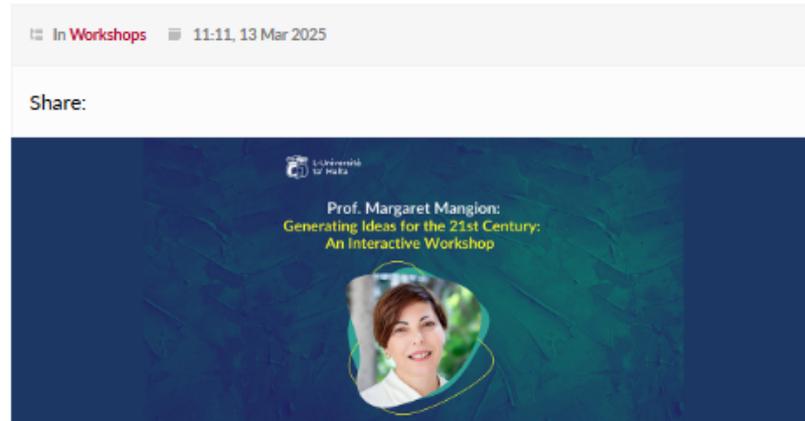
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<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/2025/01/participation-discourse-new-research-agenda-creative-cognition>

Generating Ideas for the 21st Century: An Interactive Workshop

Newspoint > Events > University > 2025 > April > Generating Ideas for the 21st Century: An Interactive Workshop



Event: Generating Ideas for the 21st Century: An Interactive Workshop
Date: Monday 7 April 2025
Time: 11:00-12:30
Venue: Periodicals Department, Level 1, Library

Speaker:
Prof. Margaret Mangion
Associate Professor of [The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation](#)

In the rapidly evolving landscape of the 21st century, generating innovative ideas has become more crucial than ever. This interactive workshop, forming part of the activities organised for World Creativity and Innovation Week by The Edward de Bono Institute, is designed to equip participants with practical techniques to foster creativity in their professional and personal roles. Through collaborative exercises and engaging discussions, participants will explore ideation methods, learn how to overcome common barriers to creativity, and apply these strategies to real-world challenges. Join us to unlock your creative potential and contribute to shaping your future.

About the Speaker:
Margaret Mangion is an Associate Professor at the University of Malta and the Director at the Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation. She specialises in creativity, innovation, and leadership. Holding a Doctorate in Social Sciences, an MBA, and qualifications in education and psychology, she represents Malta as an ambassador for World Creativity and Innovation Week. A Board Member and Secretary of the International Society for the Study of Creativity and Innovation, she is active in global academic networks, including the Possibility Studies Network. Professor Mangion's published research complements her international lectures, workshops, and editorial roles.

Register:
Places for this workshop are limited. Please secure your spot by registering via the [Google Form](#).

See More



Bio-Materials in Construction Workshops by Visiting Academic from VIT India
WORKSHOPS 07:07, 07 Aug 2025



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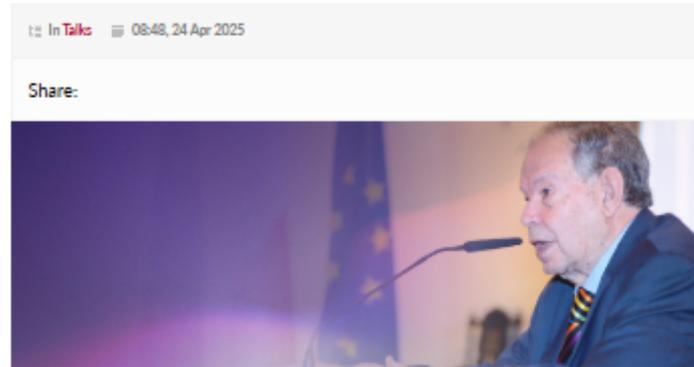
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<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/events/um/2025/04/generating-ideas-21st-century-an-interactive-workshop>

4th Edward de Bono Memorial Lecture

Newspoint > Events > University > 2025 > May > 4th Edward de Bono Memorial Lecture



Event: 4th Prof. Dr Edward de Bono Memorial Lecture
Date: Wednesday 21 May 2025
Time: 17:00
Venue: Via Zoom

The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation at the University of Malta is organizing a memorial lecture to commemorate the life and legacy of Prof. Dr Edward de Bono.

This will be held on Zoom on Wednesday 21 May 2025 from 17:00 to 18:00 (GMT+2), and shall feature a keynote address by Prof. Gerard J. Puccio, Prof. of the Centre for Applied Imagination, Buffalo State University, USA.

Registration needs to be submitted [online](#) in order to receive the login details.

About Prof. Gerard J. Puccio

Prof. Gerard J. Puccio chairs the Center for Applied Imagination and is a leading scholar-practitioner in creativity. He has authored 60+ works, including "Organizational Creativity and Innovation" (2018) and the team-building fable *The Innovative Team*.

A sought-after speaker and consultant, Puccio has delivered creativity programs on five continents for clients such as the BBC, Nestlé, Coca-Cola, and the Smithsonian. His teaching credentials include designing the Great Courses series "The Creative Thinker's Toolkit," and his 2012 TEDx talk on creativity has surpassed 100,000 views.

The Memorial Lecture

In his lecture, titled *Honouring Edward de Bono: The Enduring Power of Creativity in the 21st Century*, Prof. Puccio will talk about Dr. Edward de Bono as a visionary—a trailblazer who championed the power of creativity long before it became a recognized necessity in today's fast-changing world. His ground-breaking work in applied creativity and creative thinking education laid the foundation for what we now see as an essential skill in the modern workplace.

In this lecture, Dr. Gerard Puccio will explore the undeniable role of creativity in driving innovation and shaping the future of work. He will examine how universities are evolving to meet the demands of the 21st century by equipping students with creative problem-solving skills, preparing them to navigate complexity and seize new opportunities.

Through compelling case studies, real-world applications, and insights into the benefits of creativity education, this presentation will shed light on what makes creativity training effective. Finally, in an age increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, Dr. Puccio will address a critical question: How does creativity remain a uniquely human advantage? Join us for this thought-provoking discussion on the future of creativity and its lasting impact on education, business, and society.

See More



UM Academic invited to participate in GWU's meeting on the preparation of the current and future workforce to AI and Digital Transformation

TALKS 09:39, 28 Aug 2025



The Mediterranean Tourism Knowledge Exchange and Policy Forum

TALKS 12:33, 12 Aug 2025



Malta Society of Arts Signs MoU with National Archives of Malta

TALKS 12:32, 12 Aug 2025

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UM SEA-EU Research Seed Fund 2025 Awardees

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On Wednesday 2 July 2025, three UM academics, namely [Prof. Peter Borg](#) from the Department of Mathematics, [Dr Anne Marie Bezzina Busuttill](#) from the Department of French and [Dr Lisa Pace](#) from the Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking, met UM Rector [Prof. Alfred J. Vella](#) in order to celebrate another milestone. Pro-Rector for Strategic Planning & Sustainability, [Prof. Valerie Sollars](#), UM's SEA-EU Rector's Delegate, [Prof. Alan Deidun](#), Administrative Director, [Dr Christian Bonnici](#), and the SEA-EU Office, were also present.

The three academics are the latest awardees of the University of Malta SEA-EU Research Seed Fund. They gave a short presentation about their interesting projects and related the topics to 'real-life' application, highlighting their importance to not only research but also society.

Earlier this year, a call for applications was issued asking for international research collaboration projects to be submitted, including at least one partner from another SEA-EU university.

The title of Dr Pace's project is 'POSEIDON - Exploring Pathways tOward Sustainable ocEan futures: tensions, traDe-offs, and just transitIOns'. It aims to explore sustainability futures as strategic courses of action or pathways adopted by various actors to transition from present conditions towards preferred future visions or clearly defined objectives.

Dr Bezzina Busuttill' project is 'A Comparative Discourse Analysis of Online Reactions to Articles on Environmental Issues in Maltese and French Media'. This study aims to analyse public discourse on environmental issues in Maltese and French online media by constructing and examining a bilingual corpus of readers' reactions.

Prof. Borg's project is the 'Domination and Isolation of Graphs'. Graph theory is the mathematics of relations and connections and Domination theory is the popular study of dominating sets. In 2017, Yair Caro and Adriana Hansberg widened it to the study of isolating sets. Given a set F of graphs, S is called an F isolating set of G if $N[S]$ intersects the vertex set of each subgraph of G that is a copy of a member of F . The isolation problem is to determine how small an F -isolating set can be.

Some doctoral students and associated researchers also joined the ceremony both in person and online, including SEA-EU Universities:

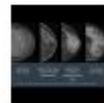
- 1 For Prof. Borg these were: Hanna Furmańczyk from University of Gdańsk, Magda Dettlaff from University of Gdańsk, Doctoral Students Dayle Scicluna and Karl Bartolo
- 2 For Dr Anne Marie Bezzina Busuttill: Liana Enmakova from Université de Bretagne Occidentale at Brest
- 3 For Dr Lisa Pace: Hugo Pinto from University of Algarve

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Prof. Renald Blundell Forges Research Ties with North Minzu University in China

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11:00, 07 Aug 2025



Science Meets Medicine: UM Researcher Participates in CERN Innovation Challenge

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07:09, 07 Aug 2025

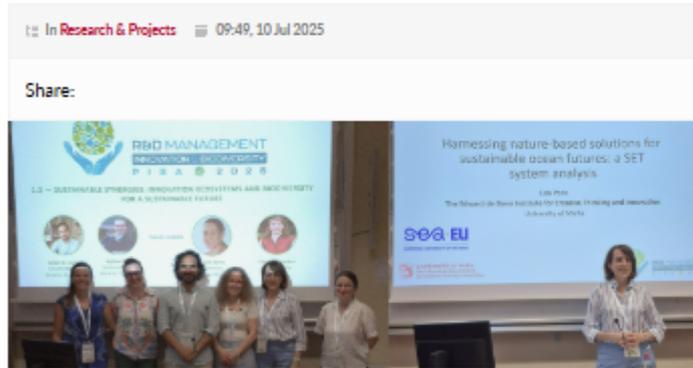
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Sustainable Ocean Futures: Presentation at the R&D Management Conference

Newspoint > News > 2025 > July > Sustainable Ocean Futures: Presentation at the R&D Management Conference



In early July the city of Pisa hosted the international R&D Management Conference, an annual international gathering that brings together researchers, professionals, and policymakers to explore current themes in innovation and research management. This year's focus on Innovation and Biodiversity reflected a growing recognition that addressing environmental challenges requires rethinking how we define and apply innovation to advance the sustainability and circular agendas.

Dr Lisa Pace from The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation presented her work at the conference on 'Harnessing nature-based solutions for sustainable ocean futures'. "It is interesting to see management and innovation scholars collaborating with natural scientists on topics as diverse as biodiversity accounting, sustainable value chains and business models", said Dr Lisa Pace.

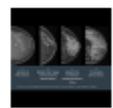
The work that Dr Pace presented reflects preliminary findings from the POSEIDON project on 'Exploring Pathways toward Sustainable Ocean futures: tensions, trade-offs, and just transitions' that aims to explore sustainability futures as strategic courses of action or pathways adopted by various actors to transition from present conditions towards preferred future visions or clearly defined objectives.

"We often think of sustainability as a desirable end goal; but there are also unintended outcomes from scaling sustainability initiatives that needed to be considered", Dr Pace said. "As the research from the POSEIDON project progresses, we hope to offer insights that can inform both academic debates and practical approaches to sustainable development in coastal areas".

One of the most striking takeaways from the conference was how deeply the future of biodiversity is linked to questions of equity, access, and long-term planning. Moving 'beyond green' means thinking not only about environmental protection but also about how innovation can support fair and lasting transitions for communities and natural ecosystems alike. Nowhere is this more urgent than in our oceans, which are facing mounting pressures from climate change, pollution, and overuse.

The POSEIDON project is supported by the University of Malta's SEA-EU Research Seed Fund programme and is a collaborative initiative with the University of Algarve.

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Students • 16 Sep 2025

Creative Minds: Summer Programme empowers teens with disabilities through creativity

The Edward de Bono Institute at the University of Malta recently concluded its Creative Minds: Summer Programme, a seven-week initiative designed for teens with disabilities. The programme, designed and coordinated by Prof. Margaret Mangion and Prof. Leonie Baldacchino, brought together eight participating youths and a team of ten dedicated educators.

Grounded in the principles of creative pedagogies, the programme explored imaginative and innovative approaches to teaching and learning. These included generating and developing ideas, embracing risk-taking and playfulness, encouraging autonomy and agency, fostering co-construction, and stimulating teacher creativity. By fully embracing these practices, the educators created a psychologically safe and supportive environment where participants could grow, express themselves, and enjoy meaningful experiences.

The initiative not only supported the personal development of the teens involved but also enriched their quality of life over the summer. A dedicated team of educators went beyond facilitation, nurturing creativity while ensuring the programme was purposeful and impactful.

The programme benefited from the support of the University of Malta, which sponsored the space for the sessions, as well as APS Bank Foundation, through a seed fund awarded to the Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation.

The Creative Minds: Summer Programme culminated in a closing event on 28 August, which welcomed distinguished guests including H.E. President Emerita Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, representatives from the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), the Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA), and APS Bank. The event highlighted the success of the initiative and celebrated the achievements of the young participants.

Addressing creativity, innovation management, critical thinking, futures studies, and entrepreneurship, The Edward de Bono Institute for Creative Thinking and Innovation offers a [Master in Creativity and Innovation](#) as well as a PhD Programme.



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07 November 2024: Campus FM

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino was invited to discuss her research on the radio programme *Ricerkaturi*, hosted by Wilfred Kenely. This was aired on 25 November on Campus FM.

21 November 2024: Bloomsbury Radio

Prof. Leonie Baldacchino was invited to discuss the GEW Malta programme of events and the local entrepreneurship ecosystem on The Business Show! hosted by Bloomsbury Institute's Arif Zaman. This was aired on 22 November and is available on [Spotify](#).

21 September 2025: Campus FM

Prof. Petra Caruana Dingli was interviewed by Colin Fitz for an episode of the radio series 'Minn Ghajnejn Barranin' on Campus 103.7 FM in September 2025. The interview was broadcast on Saturday 20 September with a repeat on Sunday 21 September 2025.