



Happy Europe Day 2011!



EU Funding: SOS Malta



News in brief



14 countries to take 323 migrants from Malta

## Say Europe

Editorial  
Vanni Xuereb

As in previous years, MEUSAC took part in the activities held in St George's Square, Valletta on May 9

MEUSAC came out once again with an innovative interactive game that involved the 200 or so school children who attended the event.

The name of the game was "Say Europe". Europe means many things to many people. Our continent has been at the forefront of world history from time immemorial.

However, European history itself has been marked by deep and serious divisions among the peoples who inhabit the continent. Thanks to the European Union, wars and serious conflicts between Europeans belong to the past. The 27 Member States of the European Union and the other non-EU European countries have managed

to overcome deep-rooted divisions and work together for the common good of all Europeans.

Therefore, we should encourage the younger generations in particular to stand proud and "Say Europe" because it is Europe that is guaranteeing a brighter and better future for them.



## Happy Europe Day 2011!

The May 9 is a special day for Europe. Celebrations are held across the European Union to commemorate the historic call of French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman for a new beginning in Europe. In Malta, Europe Day celebrations were organised on the day in St George's Square in Valletta. MEUSAC participated by organising an educational and interactive game for the primary school

children who attended the activities. The children took part in a board game taking up different amusing challenges. MEUSAC officials questioned children about their knowledge of Europe and European affairs and were given tips on ways in which they can get involved as active citizens in their everyday life in the

light of the European Year for Volunteering.

Officials from the Trees4U campaign present at the MEUSAC stand explained the concept and importance of planting trees and children were shown how plant potting is done. Small pots with seeds were given to children.

# MEUSAC assists local councils applying for EU funds

## MEUSAC acquires a total of €7.5 million in EU funding support to local councils

Since its reactivation in May 2008, MEUSAC has assisted numerous local councils in acquiring a total of €7.5 million in EU funds in support of 55 different projects making local councils the single largest beneficiary of EU funds.

The results were announced during a number of press conferences outlining a number of projects being supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – Priority Axis 2: Promoting Sustainable Localities, and the EU’s Rural Development Programme - Axis 3, Actions 313 and 323. The press events were addressed

by Chris Said, Parliamentary Secretary for Public Dialogue and Local Councils and by Vanni Xuereb, Head of MEUSAC.

Through the support given by MEUSAC, 4 local councils; Tarxien, Birkirkara, Balzan and Marsascala will benefit from the ERDF funding structure being managed by the Planning and Priorities Co-Ordination Department (PPCD). The EU financial instrument seeks to make a direct contribution to the embellishment of urban centres, allowing for localities to become tourist attractions throughout the year including the off-peak season.

Kirkop, Dingli, Żurrieq, Mosta, Birzebbuga, I-klin, Mqabba, Għargħur, St Paul’s Bay, Qala, San Lawrenz, Għarb, and Munxar will benefit from Measures 313 and 323.

The projects are aimed at the embellishment of the rural areas of these localities. Measure 313 aims at promoting economic growth in rural areas and promoting the rural heritage as a tourist product. Measure 323 aims to improve the quality of life in rural areas while also supporting the conservation, restoration and upgrading of the rural heritage; increasing

awareness of the value of the natural and built rural heritage; and ensuring the sustained use of rural heritage resources for economic and social benefits.

Nine other local councils are implementing 2 projects, with another 18 councils having completed or are in the process of implementing a project. Dr Xuereb noted that the securing of EU financial assistance to these projects would not have been possible were it not for the professional help offered by MEUSAC’s dedicated staff. Parliamentary Secretary Said stressed that MEUSAC’s success lies in

its ability to serve NGOs and Local Councils effectively and efficiently. The centrality of MEUSAC’s services is further highlighted by the fact that 35 Local Councils, 8 of which are in Gozo, have successfully acquired EU financial support to carry out actions within their localities.

The Local Councils with most EU funded projects are:	
San Lawrenz	5 projects
St Paul’s Bay	3 projects
Kirkop	3 projects
Birzebbuga	3 projects
Mellieha	3 projects
Għarb	3 projects



In Qala a recreational park will be developed, a Folklore Museum will be set up and a heritage trail encompassing six historical sites will also be developed. A number of rubble walls in this village will also undergo restoration, thus retaining the rural environment of this village.



In Mqabba, a recreational area is to be developed in the area surrounding the *Tal-Mentana* catacombs. A heritage trail will also be created to link the village centre with the countryside and rural areas.



The Tarxien project includes the embellishment of two particular areas surrounding the temples, the production of an audio-visual guide on the history of Tarxien, and the development of a Local Info Point.

## SOS Malta

As announced in the previous issue, MEUSAC News has spoken to a few of the entities it has assisted in applying for EU funds over the last two and a half years. The interviews will be available for viewing on YouTube and are intended to assist and encourage other entities wishing to apply for EU funding. Below is the interview with SOS Malta. The remaining two will feature in the coming editions of MEUSAC News.

Project Title	Empowering Private Sector Employees through Volunteering
Beneficiary	SOS Malta
Interviewee	Monique Falzon
EU Funding Programme	Europe For Citizens Action 2 Measure 3 - Projects initiated by civil society organisations
Partners	Volunteer Development Estonia - Savanoriu Centras (Lithuania)
Amount	€43,188
Project Duration	1 year

**Q1. What led SOS Malta to consider applying for EU Funds?**  
EU funding gives us an opportunity to sustain the organisation and to be able to function and develop the organisation further locally and internationally. It also provides us with the opportunity to collaborate with different European partner organisations.

**Q2. How did MEUSAC assist in the project?**  
MEUSAC mainly assisted us in finding the programme to suit the project, developing the concept and writing the proposal.

**Q3. What was the project and its related actions?**  
EPSEV is related to Corporate Volunteering and is a partnership between 3 new Member States: Lithuania, Malta and Estonia. It seeks to raise awareness about Corporate Volunteering i.e.

getting private companies and NGOs to work together in developing Corporate Volunteering schemes. Private companies offer their expertise and skills to the not-for-profit sector to help them in their daily operations. The project is divided into various phases. The first two have been completed. The main stages included a research component and a train-the-trainer course on how to set up Corporate Volunteering schemes. Currently we are raising awareness about the concept by producing leaflets and audio clips to be broadcast on radio.

This will be followed by workshops and networking events where each of the organisations across the 3 Member States will organise. The last phase will entail the evaluation and dissemination of the action and best practices. For further information on EPSEV, visit the project’s website [www.epsev.eu](http://www.epsev.eu)

**Q4. What are the benefits that the organisation, its members and the final beneficiaries have drawn from the implementation of the EU-funded initiative?**  
The research phase on Corporate Volunteering is important for Malta and the other Member States due to the fact that few are aware of such a concept. Through the research, we were able to get our hands-on information on what is being done in Malta with regards to Corporate Volunteering and whether NGOs and private companies are willing to develop the area further.

**Q5. What would you suggest to local councils and/or organisations currently considering EU funds? It is important that organisations know that there is help. MEUSAC is there to provide this kind of assistance. I would suggest EU funds as a means to help sustain an organisation and to create more partners abroad and locally.**