

# Valletta Living Together: Enriching 450 years as a Bastion of Diversity

THE INTERCULTURAL CITY STRATEGY  
FOR VALLETTA 2015-2018



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# Terminology

**Migrant:** Throughout this document the term migrant has been used to encompass all foreign nationals in Malta. Whilst the project was primarily focused on the integration of Third Country Nationals, an intercultural city strategy should not distinguish between different types of migrants in the country. The intercultural cities approach seeks to improve cities for all residents including migrants of different types (EU, non-EU, refugees and asylum seekers) and therefore, these are not separated or excluded from within this document.

**Third Country National:** Migrants coming from countries outside the EU and not holding the citizenship of an EU country. This group includes both persons born in a country outside the EU and persons born in the EU but not holding the citizenship of an EU Member State.

**Interculturalism:** Interculturalism recognises the value of diversity while doing everything possible to increase interaction and mixing between cultural communities. Interculturalism enables and supports the exchange of ideas and cultural interaction as a spur to innovation, growth and the bonding of cultures, people and authorities for the benefit of all (intercultural cities)

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# Acronyms

ACM:	Arts Council Malta	MENA:	Middle East and North Africa
AMAM:	African Media Association Malta	MIPEX:	Migrant Integration Policy Index
AMIF:	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	MTA:	Malta Tourism Authority
AZ:	Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ	NGO:	Non Governmental Organisation
ETC:	Employment and Training Corporation	OFD:	Organisation for Friendship in Diversity
EU:	European Union	PfC:	People for Change foundation
FAQ:	Frequently Asked Questions	PHROM:	Platform of Human Rights Organisations Malta
IoM:	International Organisation for Migration	SOS Malta:	Solidarity Overseas Service Malta
JRS:	Jesuit Refugee Service	TCN:	Third Country National
KOPIN:	Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali Malta	TU:	Trade Unions
LLP:	Lifelong Learning Programme	UEFA:	Union of European Football Associations
MA:	Masters of Arts	UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
MBB:	Malta Business Bureau	UNHCR:	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
MCAS:	Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology	VLC:	Valletta Local Council

# 450 Years: A Bastion of Diversity

## FOREWORD

The City of Valletta is turning 450 years old and the rate of change it is facing today is unprecedented. The dream of a global village has become a reality and our citizens are no longer bound to a physical location but they can consider themselves as being citizens of the world.

Our city has retained its mission of being a melting pot of different cultures. The main street of the city is a fertile ground for spontaneous discussions amongst people originating from all walks of life. However, the same cannot be said for all parts of the city. Various meeting places such as youth centres have closed down. The social net offered by different institutions is becoming thinner. The evolution of the city is affecting the quality of life of our citizens. Because of this, we need to lay out a vision for our city and its people. We have to shape out the future of how public, private and non-governmental organisations work together with our communities, in order to turn our vision into reality.

We need to appreciate that the property which distinguished Valletta from the other localities is its diversity. The differences between religious feasts, political views, neighbourhoods, race and so much more manage to coexist in such a small space. What makes this unification possible is the Valletta identity. An identity so strong, that it is capable of cancelling any difference. Thus, we can claim that our key strength is our unity in our diversity.

But if we want to see long lasting improvements, we need to direct this strength to better use. I dream of a day when our citizens, irrespective of their age, gender, race, country of origin and religion are involved directly in the changes that shape their lives. Real change can only occur if they recognise their contribution towards making the city a better place and actively work to achieve this common goal. By working together, we can make Valletta a better place- A prosperous and exciting city with strong, sustainable communities. No one should be marginalised and everyone should find his own space within the city. By doing so, we can guarantee a bright future not just for the city but more importantly, for the communities that keep our city alive.



**Alexiei Dingli**  
MAYOR OF VALLETTA



# Valletta as Europe's Capital of Culture

## FOREWORD

**Valletta 2018 as European Capital of Culture is about regenerating the capital city, as well as all of Malta, through cultural means.**

The process of envisioning the city in novel ways is challenging in that all those involved – residents, artists and other creatives, the business community and visitors alike – need to take stock of their different, and often conflicting situations and priorities, and work towards common goals for the maximum benefit for everyone. Valletta, and Malta, offer the participants of Valletta 2018 a significant amount of heritage and historical references from where to draw experiences on how to seek, support and manage diversity, in light of the various and varied geopolitical influences experienced over the centuries.

However, such lessons from the past need to allow all those with a stake in Valletta to move beyond the city's heritage, which is by no means common to everyone, with an aim to seek to develop a roadmap for a common future. The strategy presented here aims to do that, and the Valletta 2018 Foundation supports this effort and looks forward to seeing the challenges described therein met and the scenarios envisaged fulfilled.



**Karsten Xuereb**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**VALLETTA 2018**  
**FOUNDATION**

“Maltese people are very welcoming”

PAKISTANI RESIDENT IN MALTA

## Why ‘Valletta Living Together’?

### FOREWORD

Why ‘Valletta Living Together’?: Following the naming of Valletta as the European Capital of Culture 2018, and in order to address the objective *growing internationally from the world within us*, SOS Malta felt it is important to look at how Valletta could promote cultural diversity and integration within the city, serving as a model for Malta and Gozo as a whole.

The strategy will assist Valletta in addressing the integration of different cultures and promote the benefits from the diverse nature of the city. Through the intercultural cities approach, Valletta and indeed other cities and villages in Malta and Gozo will enhance integration within their borders.

Through this strategy, Valletta will foster dialogue between people from different cultures in their daily lives, at school or at work. It will build a society where the *I and We, legality and justice, solidarity and rights* are not separate but complimentary dimensions where human life expresses its diversity becoming an asset for itself and for the community to which it belongs.



**Claudia Taylor-East**  
CEO, SOS MALTA





# Background

## What is an intercultural city?

The Intercultural Cities programme is a joint initiative between the Council of Europe. It seeks to explore the potential of an intercultural approach to integration in communities with culturally diverse populations. The cities participating in the programme are reviewing their governance, policies, discourse and practices from an intercultural point of view and devising a strategy to enhance their status as an intercultural city.

The intercultural city has people with different nationality, origin, language or religion/ belief living and working in it. In an intercultural city leaders and citizens regard diversity positively, as a resource to be utilised. The city actively combats discrimination and has a strategy and tools to deal with diversity and cultural conflict. It encourages greater mixing and interaction between diverse groups and ensures that all residents are able to live together and benefit from each other's presence.

In 2014, the Valletta Living Together team from SOS Malta together with the support of Valletta Local Council and the Valletta 2018 Foundation began a process of discussion with experts from the Intercultural Cities Programme, discussions with stakeholders in Malta and exchanging experiences with other intercultural cities to learn better how Valletta could become an intercultural city, not just in name but reflected in its actions at all levels of public life. The following strategy is a culmination of those discussions and reflects the aspirations of all those involved on the future of Valletta as an intercultural city. It seeks to provide a road map for change to improve Valletta for all those who live in, work in and enjoy what Valletta has to offer.

## A short history of migration in Malta

Valletta is the capital of Malta. It is a municipality with a population of 6,675 within a wider Travel-To-Work Area of about 90,000 people. The resident population consists of approximately 5% non Maltese nationals. The city, which is colloquially known as *Il-Belt* (The City) or *Città Umilissima* (Most Humble City) in Latin, is inextricably linked to the history of the military and charitable Order of St John of Jerusalem. Malta was ruled successively by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and the Order of the Knights of St John. Valletta's 320 monuments, all within an area of 55ha making it one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world as well as a densely-populated centre of government, business, residence, tourism and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

With such a history and geography, Malta has inevitably been host to many various cultures, languages, religions and models of government. Malta's location at the heart of the Mediterranean between three continents has ensured it has been a place visited and settled by many and jealously-guarded too. In 2004, Malta joined the European Union. All of this influences the level of mobility and migration (of various forms) the island now experiences, and the attitudes and policies the islanders have formed in response to it.

Demographically, Malta is rapidly diversifying. While data for Valletta specifically is unavailable, by 2011 the 'foreign' population of Malta had exceeded 20,000, comprising 140 nationalities, or close to 7 per cent of the total population. The bulk are regular migrants from within

the European Union, or outside the EU coming from countries such as the Philippines, Russia and Serbia, while a minority comprises asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, mainly from Eritrea and Somalia and more recently from Syria and Libya. Malta's ageing demographic profile has, for example, created significant demand for domestic migrant workers, including from the Philippines.

### National Policy Context

Although the migrant population has doubled over the past decade, it is argued that Maltese laws and policies in relation to integration remain some of the weakest and least favourable in Europe.<sup>1</sup> After the 2013 Maltese General Elections, the new Government appointed Hon. Helena Dalli as Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties. It is the first time that a Minister's portfolio specifically includes social dialogue, civil liberties and equality, and consequently issues relating to integration. This can be seen as the recognition of the growing importance of putting social dialogue and integration on the political agenda in Malta. Until this time ad hoc initiatives were being adopted at local or departmental level. Several Local Councils (municipalities) are active in cultural and social integration activities, whilst government agencies, including primarily service-provision agencies have focused on internal capacity building, relating to service provision.

Within the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX)<sup>2</sup> Malta is currently ranked 33rd in the list of 38 countries surveyed<sup>3</sup>. MIPEX concludes, in summary, that:

- Whilst Malta's anti-discrimination law has improved, it is still one of the weakest in Europe. (Malta rank 26<sup>th</sup> out of 38 countries with 51/100 as a score).
- Many Non-EU nationals with the right to live in Malta do not have an equal right to work.
- Malta has some of the longest waits for family reunion (Malta ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 38 countries, with a score of 48/100).
- Political opportunities are closed to non-EU residents (Malta ranks 25<sup>th</sup> out of 38 countries on political participation, with a score of 25/100).
- Education policy leaves Maltese schools as some of the least prepared in Europe for migrant children (Malta ranks 34<sup>th</sup> out of 38 countries on education, with a score of 19/100).
- Malta has one of the most exclusionary naturalisation policies in Europe (Malta ranks 27<sup>th</sup> out of 38 countries, with a score of 34/100).
- Becoming a long-term resident gives non-EU residents their best chance to integrate in Malta (Malta ranks 34<sup>th</sup> out of 38 countries in the field of giving access to long-term or permanent residence, with a score of 50/100).

In June 2014 an independent study by a group of Maltese experts confirmed the existing MIPEX findings and called for the introduction of a National Integration Policy for Malta<sup>4</sup>. As such the government

1. Camilleri, C. and N. Falzon (2014) *Malta Integration Network: a way forward for a National Integration Policy in Malta - Final Report*. Aditus foundation: Malta. Accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/pj938h9>

2. A widely endorsed tool for assessing, comparing and improving integration policy. It measures policies in 37 countries employing 148 policy indicators creating a multi-dimensional picture of migrants' opportunities to participate in society by assessing governments' commitment to integration. By measuring policies and their implementation it reveals whether all residents are guaranteed equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

3. <http://www.mipex.eu/malta>

4. Camilleri, C & Falzon, N (2014) *op cit*

has now accepted the need for a national integration policy led by the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs, and Civil Liberties and is currently in the process of drafting this document through consultation which will be launched in 2015. As such, this intercultural city strategy for Valletta is coming at an opportune time to be able to influence and also implement the national level policy.

### Challenges to the Inclusion of Migrants

In addition to those challenges highlighted above by the MIPEX index, other challenges or obstacles for migrants arriving in Malta include among others:

- i. The lack of a 'one-stop shop' for newcomers to Malta, which would provide them with relevant information on services and requests in multiple languages and signpost them further as required. The International Organisation for Migration (IoM) has developed an **online portal** for government, which remains open for use but which needs to be more regularly updated and utilised by government.
- ii. In a context of public service providers not yet fully versed in intercultural competences across a range of departments and agencies, newcomers find themselves lost and isolated rather than being able to address their unique combination of individual needs holistically. Various NGOs within Malta are working with government departments to improve the intercultural competence of public sector professionals, but a more sustained and comprehensive approach is needed.
- iii. The lack of a common language for dialogue presents a major barrier to social relationships between newcomers and Maltese people and brings loneliness and isolation in its train. Existing English and Maltese classes provided by NGOs can be too large and undifferentiated by level attained, while those provided at modest cost by the Government or ETC, in addition to cultural awareness courses, may be difficult for migrant workers to fit into demanding schedules.
- iv. The non-recognition of qualifications for non-EU residents hinders their vocational competences being fully deployed. Many migrants are working



on the margins of the formal economy, vulnerable to serious exploitation.

- v. The assumption that teaching in schools will be in Maltese or English, with ‘code-switching’ between as required, while at least assisting newcomer children with English as a second language, does not adequately meet their language requirements. Nor does the system of teacher-training prepare teachers in Malta for their encounters with children of other mother tongues in the classroom—some of whom may have been traumatised in their country of origin, may have little idea how long they will stay in Malta and may experience bullying—while parents of newcomer children are largely uninvolved in parent-teacher associations or school councils.
- vi. ‘Education for diversity’ is recognised nationally as a cross-cutting theme in the current curricular framework, yet that framework prioritises Catholic religious education, which does not fully address the need to educate children about different religions and cultures in order to promote tolerance and understanding, nor does it, at present, provide a adequate alternative of religious and cultural education for those of another faith or none.

All this is reflective of a popular discourse in Malta which interprets successive waves of occupation, from ancient times until independence was secured in 1964, in terms of fear of being ‘over-run’ by newcomers today and of a perceived imbalance in terms of the number of migrants Malta receives compared to the rest of Europe. This fear may be projected on to stigmatised members of visible minorities particularly those from Africa.

There is a need of a greater understanding from the Maltese population as to the different origins and backgrounds of migrants living in Malta and their relative situations and rights (asylum-seekers, beneficiaries of international protection, refugees, EU migrants and non-EU migrants/TCN), each group being itself made up of unique individuals with whom Maltese people can engage and share a sense of common humanity.

### **Valletta as an Intercultural City**

Malta, and in particular Valletta, do have a genuine claim to be located at a ‘crossroads of civilisations’ and can capitalise on the accumulated cultural capital it has thus accrued—including but not limited to tourism. In that sense, far from being ‘new’



to diversity, it can call upon this long history of interweaving of populations as a uniquely defining feature.

Valletta itself has an impressive visual aspect, including its layers of architectural sedimentation—it has 320 monuments and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and it enjoys a convivial Mediterranean ambience. It follows that at the heart of this intercultural strategy is the promotion and celebration of public space, cognisant and celebratory of this intercultural heritage. The regeneration of Valletta in the run-up to Valletta 2018 provides an excellent foundation for renewal of this urban social fabric, with the reconstructed *Pjazza Teatru Rjal* next to the new national parliament building, a symbol of open public space.

Whilst the population of Valletta is small when compared to other intercultural cities, Valletta also has a high daily population of commuters, as well as tourists (around 40,000 visitors a day). Valletta is the hub of the island with a number of government offices, museums and minority-national cultural centres, the bus terminus and ferry port. While more stay than previously, the city remains quieter at night and more could be done to encourage visitors/commuters to remain for longer in the

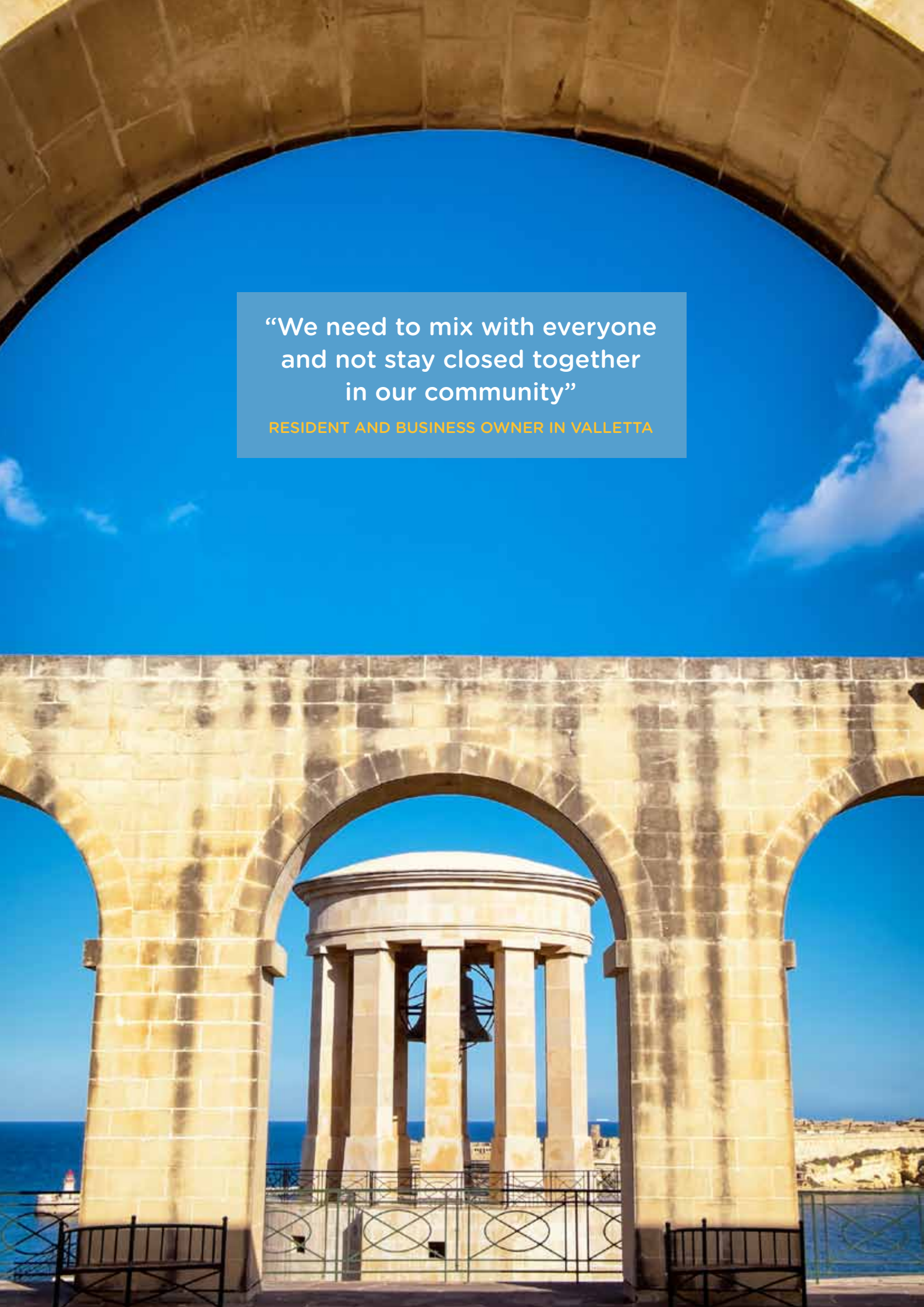
evenings and to visit at the weekend by creating greater cultural magnetism.

Valletta has the potential to change the terms of debate on ‘foreigners’ in Malta, which is currently framed by defensive fears in response to global events in the neighbouring region, and economic problems across Europe, towards a valorisation of cultural diversity, managed in an intercultural fashion, and a more outward-looking perspective on the wider Mediterranean region. In and through this strategy, stakeholders in Valletta will develop and support best practices to make this a reality.

Valletta 2018 provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to carry out this re-imagining of the city, as *Belt Unika*. The Valletta 2018 project sees itself as ‘a cultural laboratory for society to pose self-reflective questions’ about the challenges Valletta faces in a Mediterranean space which can connect rather than divide and provide an environment for change through exchange. The Valletta 2018 process combined with this intercultural strategy for Valletta can provide a vital catalyst for cultural regeneration and the instilling of a real sense of civic pride in, and public ownership of, the trajectory of Valletta as an intercultural city.

Valletta has been affected by many different cultural influences that were present throughout Malta’s history. It is great that Valletta has kept the different features and marks of its history”

FRENCH TOURIST VISITING VALLETTA

A photograph of a stone archway leading to a circular temple with columns, set against a blue sky and sea. The archway is made of large, light-colored stone blocks. The temple is a circular structure with a domed roof and several columns. The sea is visible in the background, and the sky is a clear, bright blue with some light clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

**“We need to mix with everyone  
and not stay closed together  
in our community”**

**RESIDENT AND BUSINESS OWNER IN VALLETTA**

# The Valletta Intercultural City Strategy

The aim of Valletta's intercultural city strategy is:

**To build on Valletta's rich heritage and growing contemporary diversity as a catalyst for its renewal and further development as Malta's intercultural capital in which all residents, visitors and workers alike are able to contribute to and benefit from their association with Valletta**

## Objectives

1. To provide an effective, 'one-stop-shop' orientation for migrants in Valletta, whether from inside or outside the European Union, to facilitate their inclusion into Maltese society.
2. To facilitate the introduction of migrants into the local labour market, while recognising the centrality of the language and cultural barriers, thereby maximising the socio-economic contribution they can make.
3. To support best practices in the inclusion of migrant children in schools to get the best out of an increasingly multi-lingual and multi-ethnic pupil population.
4. To promote and support non-formal educational initiatives fostering intercultural dialogue and empathy between people from the 'host' community and their newcomer counterparts.
5. To sensitise public service providers to engage more responsively with service users from minority communities.
6. To link the regeneration of Valletta to the development of public spaces with the scope for intercultural encounters and the re-appropriation of a unique, complex heritage.
7. To open up popular culture in Valletta to the celebration of diversity and to privilege support for forms of expression with an intercultural commitment.
8. To project Valletta as an international cultural meeting-point, adding to its popular tourism offer, developing transcultural business links and fostering cultural exchanges.





# Objectives and Actions

**OBJECTIVE 1: To provide an effective, ‘one-stop-shop’ orientation for migrants in Valletta, whether from inside or outside the European Union, to facilitate their inclusion into Maltese society.**

**DESCRIPTION:** This setting up of an effective orientation system for newcomers is a big challenge. A number of elements of the system have already been developed, but in a fragmentary way. The challenge therefore is not to start from scratch but to combine and cohere what already exists and to fill in the gaps and ensure a sustained and comprehensive service over the long term. Valletta is the most appropriate place for this as the nation’s capital and home to many of the services needed.

## **ACTION 1.1**

### **Develop a physical orientation centre**

#### **ACTIVITIES**

An orientation centre will be established in a suitable location to provide an effective one-stop shop for migrants. Information provided will include the basic history and geography of Malta, rights and obligations, institutions and contact details, support services and organisations. In order to establish this, the following activities will take place:

- i. A fact-finding visit to Portugal/Lisbon, should be undertaken as an example of good practice to stimulate the process of set up in Malta.
- ii. The location of the centre should be determined in consultation with stakeholders and a common appropriate space identified.
- iii. The centre will seek to bring together services and information already available. Such as the advice and counselling services offered by Dar L-Emigrant and the multi-lingual leaflets and the *Living in Malta* guide<sup>1</sup>, produced by IoM, translated into key newcomer languages.
- iv. The centre will seek to employ on a contract/ freelance or volunteer basis a small number of intercultural mediators/interpreters from the principal minority communities.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The strategy steering committee (see governance structures) will approach NGOs to map resources and materials already available such as the IOM *Living in Malta* guide which could be reproduced and used to furnish the centre with relevant materials.

VLC will facilitate discussions with relevant government departments to ensure commitment from the national level to facilitate the functioning of such a centre. Funds will be sought from government/ EU funding or other sources to establish the Centre

VLC will be cognisant of the existence of the centre and will direct newcomers, visitors to VLC and residents it comes into contact with about such a resource, including through the distribution of leaflets and materials about and from the centre.



## ACTION 1.2

### Implementation of an online portal for the one-stop shop

#### ACTIVITIES

An online portal will be further developed, building on the IoM version produced for government, ensuring all the hard-copy materials are available online in multi-lingual form and newcomers not requiring face-to-face contact with officers of the centre and/or mediators/interpreters can obtain all the answers they need from FAQs.

The portal will be the responsibility of the physical orientation centre to manage and ensure the portal is regularly updated, drawing on issues raised by users and input from the network of organisations engaged by this strategy.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

NGOs, together with the project steering committee will lobby for the present online one-stop shop to be taken forward, improved and updated to ensure it is a living resource for migrants.

VLC will ensure the publicising of such a one stop shop through its website, social media and through physically sharing this information to people coming to Valletta and the VLC office in search of information.



**“I like the friendly and helpful attitude of my neighbours and the general atmosphere of goodwill.”**

**PARTICIPANT IN ONLINE SURVEY**





**OBJECTIVE 2: To facilitate the introduction of migrants into the local labour market, recognising the centrality of the language barrier, maximising the contribution they can thereby make.**

**DESCRIPTION:** Language is not the only barrier to social participation for newcomers but overcoming this barrier is key, along with other support towards labour-market activation for migrants who plan to stay in Malta.

### **ACTION 2.1**

#### **Systematic language teaching provision for migrants**

##### **ACTIVITIES**

A systematic approach to language teaching provision is needed offering a variety of options for courses to suit the needs of migrants. The following actions need to be taken:

- Service providers including NGOs will be encouraged to provide a varied and flexible timetable and the inclusion of help with child care
- NGOs will be supported by the relevant local and national government departments to implement language courses with manageable levels of attendees to ensure quality teaching
- ETC will be urged to develop and publicise free, online language courses with accredited online testing.
- Options for language courses will be publicised more widely through stakeholders communication means, as well as through the once stop shop

##### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

NGOs will liaise and seek funding, for joint comprehensive programmes for language learning.

NGOs working on language learning will liaise with other service providers such as LLP to seek to implement a comprehensive and complementary approach.

NGOs and stakeholders including VLC will publicise among residents, on offer for English and Maltese courses.

## ACTION 2.2

### Mentoring and accompaniment of new arrivals

#### ACTIVITIES

SOS Malta together with other NGOs and government bodies will seek to support minority-led organisations which have the aim of activating newcomers and offering continuing collective support once they have had basic orientation (such as TCN Network, Migrant Women's Network).

These migrant-led NGOs or networks and/or other NGOs will engage peer mentors and opportunities for 'shadow' employment or work experience, so that new arrivals can prepare themselves for entry into the labour market where necessary.

A model for such an approach can be found in the UNHCR 'Integration Project Track'.<sup>2</sup> Such initiatives should be further developed and encouraged as a means to facilitate entry into the labour market.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

SOS Malta will continue to facilitate the strengthening of migrant led NGOs in Malta through training advice and support.

These migrant-led NGOs will be a reference point for newcomers.

Other NGOs will continue to take the support and mentoring of migrants as core business and will develop work practices to ensure effective approaches in this regard.

## ACTION 2.3

### Opportunities for up-skilling and the recognition of qualifications

#### ACTIVITIES

Courses run by institutions such as MCAST and the Lifelong Learning Directorate, through which newcomers can refresh/upgrade their skills, will be publicised via the National Cultural Centres in Valletta, minority associations, NGOs, Valletta Local Council, and the one stop shop orientation centre.

Procedures for the recognition of qualifications will be demystified and explained on the online portal, as well as publicised via the above channels.

NGOs, migrant organisations and public bodies will liaise with trade unions in sectors where migrants are concentrated, such as construction, care work etc to seek to facilitate their efforts to ensure all employment is regulated and to combat potential exploitation. They will also liaise with relevant bodies such as the General Retailers and Traders Union, to tackle barriers faced by minority entrepreneurs in establishing small businesses and social enterprises.

Furthermore, the steering committee should ensure support to and publicising of opportunities for migrants to set up small businesses and social enterprises, for example including the Malta Microfinance Institution.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

The steering committee supported by the Valletta Local Council will seek to understand the barriers to access to newcomers and liaise with relevant bodies to overcome these, such as Ministry of Employment, TUs, etc.

The steering committee with liaise with relevant institutions to ensure that marketing regarding training available reaches the relevant audiences through, for example, the one stop shop.

VLC will ensure that it publicises opportunities, for training via its website and social media and communicates this through other means to its residents.

As part of a mapping of resources for the one stop shop inclusion of information on training opportunities, as well as entrepreneurship and funding opportunities will be key.

### OBJECTIVE 3: To support best practices in the inclusion of migrant children in schools to get the best out of an increasingly multi-lingual and multi-ethnic pupil population.

**DESCRIPTION:** There is only one state (primary) and one Catholic (primary and secondary) school in Valletta. However, the wider debate and development of good practices to flesh out 'education for diversity' can still be influenced within the city. Interested stakeholders will be invited to establish an educational forum including teachers in the Valletta schools and others interested elsewhere in Malta, so that they can share good practice on the integration of migrants in school, including with educationalists, and influence the evolving national integration strategy.

#### ACTION 3.1

#### Set up and implementation of an education forum for inclusion of migrants

##### ACTIVITIES

The steering committee will facilitate the set up of an education forum which will discuss approaches to respond to the needs of migrant children in schools. This forum will include teachers, NGOs, representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Valletta Local Council and other education practitioners.

The education forum will look at how the needs and capacities of individual newcomer pupils can be fully assessed on entry into the system and how they can be engaged with in their mother tongue (including via interpretation) in their first year, as they develop competence in English and/or Maltese, so that their educational development is not stunted from the outset, alienating them from the educational experience. This may involve recommending the use of cultural mediators, homework clubs or other initiatives as appropriate.

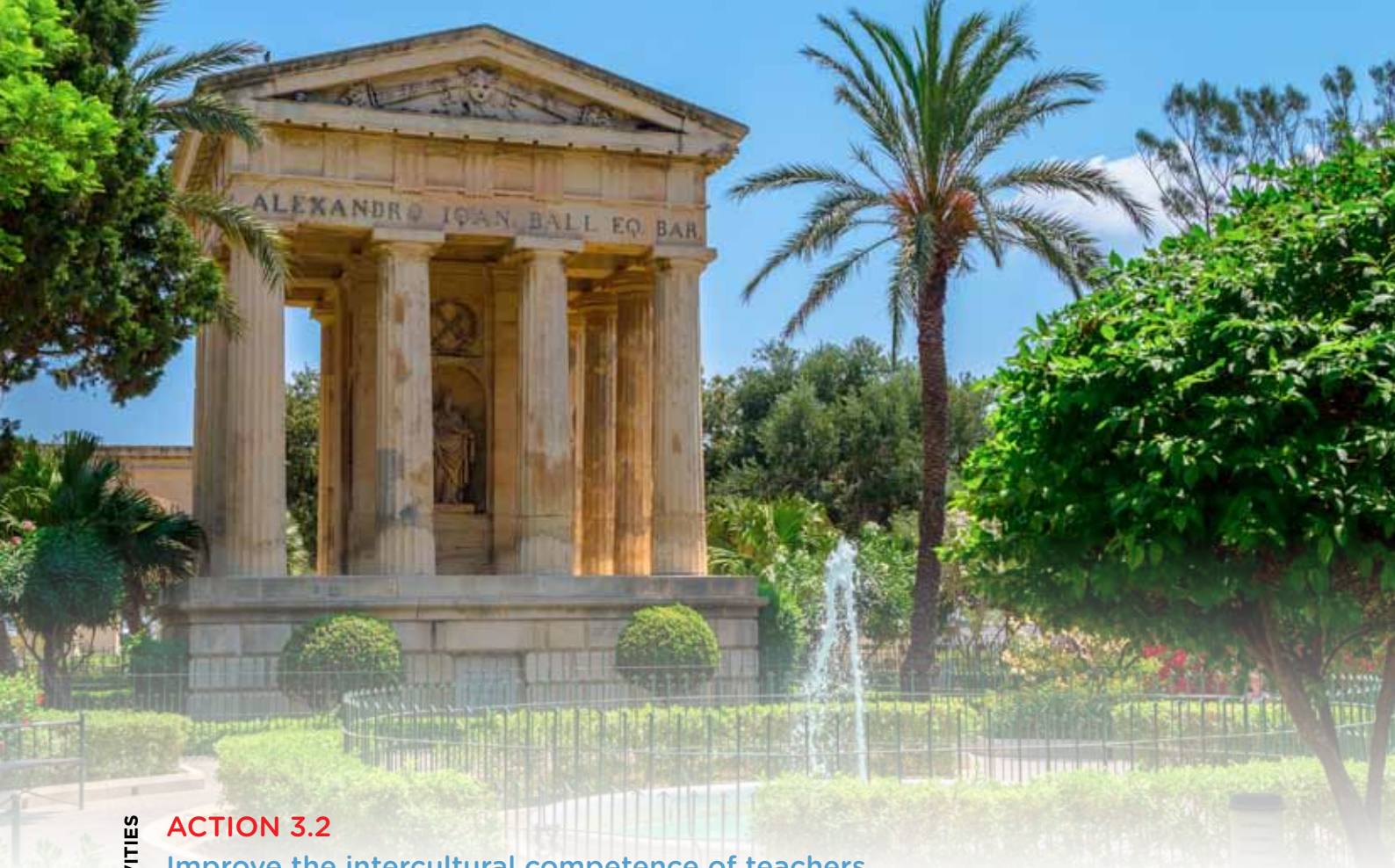
The education forum will collate and develop good practices and training opportunities and share these with the wider Valletta and Malta community. It will support and disseminate resources such as the *Not Just Numbers Toolkit* produced by IOM and UNHCR in 2009, which some teachers have already been trained to use through training from UNHCR and KOPIN, and other resources such as the PFC classroom resources ([www.humanrightsmalta.org](http://www.humanrightsmalta.org)) which are available for use in the classroom or by teachers.

The education forum will be able to provide input and recommendations for the actions below.

##### RESPONSIBILITIES

The education forum should be set up by the steering committee. The education forum will take forward actions regarding this objective and will liaise with the steering committee regarding progress.

NGOs will be approached to collaborate to ensure that initiatives for education with migrant children are discussed and shared, best practice developed and no duplication of efforts made.



**ACTIVITIES**

**ACTION 3.2**

**Improve the intercultural competence of teachers**

The forum will provide a point of liaison with the University of Malta, to assist the training of new teachers in an intercultural pedagogy, as well as with the education department to ensure in-service training courses. The aim of such an approach will be to develop teachers' capacities for self-reflection and their intercultural competences, including via input from the university's own Department of Psychology and external experts into the Bachelor of Education and postgraduate Certificate of Education.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

The education forum will be responsible to take forward this consultation.

**ACTIVITIES**

**ACTION 3.3**

**Improve understanding and knowledge of pupils on different cultures as a means to effective integration of children**

While interculturalism should come to pervade the curriculum, there will be particular exploration of how intercultural concerns can be introduced into classes on personal and social development and how religious education can move from catechism and the separation of non-Catholics in Ethics education classes into a more contemporary holistic approach which brings all pupils together based on the sociology of the great world religions and the secular universal norms which the Council of Europe was established to promote.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

NGOs working on education issues will collaborate to devise recommendations on how to improve intercultural education in the classroom and will liaise with the education forum to influence relevant bodies regarding the updating of the curriculum.

**ACTION 3.4****Provide support to the integration of migrant families within the whole education system****ACTIVITIES**

The network of intercultural mediators which this strategy will seek to establish (see under Objective 6) will be drawn on to offer educational orientation to newcomer parents as well as pupils and classroom assistance as required. It will support homework clubs for minority children whose parents are unable to assist them because of language difficulties and will help parents to develop the confidence to engage with their children's education, including via participation in parent-teacher associations or school councils.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

SOS Malta will take the lead on developing projects to train and place intercultural mediators within schools including in Valletta in collaboration with other NGOs and education bodies to ensure a comprehensive approach to this.

**OBJECTIVE 4: To promote and support non-formal educational initiatives fostering intercultural dialogue and empathy between people from the 'host' community and their newcomer counterparts.**

**DESCRIPTION:** International experience suggests that non-formal education projects are particularly effective in stimulating intercultural dialogue and understanding, in particular among children and young people.

**ACTION 4.1****Enhance and encourage Intercultural awareness and dialogue in the community****ACTIVITIES**

Intercultural awareness-raising projects will be supported by VLC and Valletta 2018 in collaboration with NGOs which foster a sense of common humanity, via a capacity to walk in the shoes of the 'other' rather than merely perceiving difference, such as Valletta 2018's Community Hip Hop project or such a project as the Empathy Museum currently being proposed in the UK and US<sup>3</sup>.

Such initiatives shall build on the prior experience of initiatives such as Youth Upbeat<sup>4</sup>, or resources produced by NGOs, such as the educational resource 'Me ... a refugee? Or a kid, just like you?', produced by the Organisation for Friendship in Diversity (OFD).

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

Valletta 2018 to actively seek out and endorse intercultural projects.

ACM to support cultural and artistic projects that can support intercultural dialogue and understanding through the Creative Communities Fund.

NGOs to propose initiatives together with other stakeholders in this regard according to their strategies and focus to promote intercultural awareness and dialogue.



## ACTION 4.2

### Provide opportunities for young people from all different cultures and nationalities to interact in an informal setting

**ACTIVITIES**

An annual intercultural summer camp will be organised, building on the experience in this regard of the municipality and OFD, so that youngsters can come to engage 'spontaneously' in intercultural everyday activities, including through games and sport.

Drop-in youth cafes currently run by Agenzija Zghazagh in particular the Youth Café in Valletta, will be approached with a view to opening up more to non-Maltese young people. Projects such as the previously proposed Youth-In from SOS Malta could be reviewed and revived. The youth cafes will be offered resources and young speakers, to stimulate debates and discussions about a diverse Valletta and Malta in a relaxed environment, as well as access to engaging online material.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

VLC will approach OFD with a view to collaborating on a Valletta Summer camp.

SOS Malta or other interested NGOs to take this forward with support from VLC and AZ to enhance the services of the youth cafe in Valletta and transform it into an intercultural hub for young people.



## OBJECTIVE 5: To sensitise public service providers to engage more responsively with service users from minority communities.

**DESCRIPTION:** Public service providers provide a critical interface for newcomers to Valletta: Unless the former are able to put into practice its intercultural commitments, services will remain inadequate for newcomers. For example, health professionals need to be able to recognise when migrants present with unarticulated trauma and officers dealing with social security claims need to understand why a non-Maltese person might appear without an ID card.

### ACTION 5.1

#### Intercultural competence of public sector service providers

##### ACTIVITIES

NGOs will collaborate to establish and make available a training programme for the sensitisation of staff in the municipality, engaged NGOs and public agencies represented in Valletta. The aim will be to ensure that public services are reflective of the growing diversity of Valletta's catchment area and that public servants possess the intercultural competences to feel confident about responding appropriately with diverse users. This will build on the experience of the Intercultural Competence Programme and the Stakeholder Information Sessions, run by aditus in conjunction with SOS Malta and UNHCR respectively, based on a human-rights approach. For public servants involved in particularly sensitive work, it will also seek to draw on expertise within the Department of Counselling at the University of Malta, which runs an MA in transcultural counselling.

This group of NGOs will systematically approach service providers to offer such courses and encourage uptake accordingly.

Relevant faculties at the University of Malta will be encouraged to insert modules on interculturalism into their courses, particularly for students aspiring to be public-service professionals.

There will be liaison with professional associations to find ways to incorporate such training into continuing professional development.

##### RESPONSIBILITIES

NGOs working on intercultural competence (including SOS Malta, aditus, IOM among others) will be approached by the steering committee to collaborate and bring together resources on intercultural competence and develop a comprehensive programme for public sector professionals providing services within Valletta.

Valletta Local Council will encourage its staff and councillors to attend courses and will also articulate the need for such training among other service providers present in Valletta.

## ACTION 5.2

### Development of a network of intercultural mediators.

**ACTIVITIES**

Cultural mediators can play a role in facilitating the access to public services by migrants. A network of intercultural mediators will be set up, including a database of contact details and skills which can assist public service providers in their work, drawing on prior training in this regard by JRS and UNHCR, SOS Malta and the experience of the health centre with Somalian and Eritrean mediators in Floriana.

A pool of interpreters will be mapped and will be made available for deployment across public services, building on the experience of the Migrant Health Liaison Office and the Office of the Refugee Commissioner.

Public service providers will be encouraged to engage on a contract, freelance or voluntary basis, as applicable, such intercultural mediators in situations of need to ensure that service users receive the best service possible.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

The steering committee will consult with relevant NGOs to map existing cultural mediators and develop a database of these that is accessible to different NGOs and service providers.

## ACTION 5.3

### Ensuring access to multilingual information on public services and public information in different formats

**ACTIVITIES**

Policy should be that official signage and publications (on- and offline) will be at least in English, as well as Maltese.

VLC will endeavour to become a model of good practice in this regard ensuring public information is given to residents in both English and Maltese specifically for example on information for residents such as rubbish collection or on communications coming from the local council (such as the website and leaflets).

VLC will seek to diversify the means in which it communicates to its residents improving information contained in its website and Facebook, as well as developing email communication in Maltese and English.

In addition to this, ideally information is provided in key languages such as Arabic, Russian, Philippine or Serbian for example.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

VLC will work on its informational policy and will prioritise the publication of materials in both English and Maltese.

If possible VLC will consider extending this to further relevant languages.

VLC will further develop its communication means to residents.

## OBJECTIVE 6: To link the regeneration of Valletta to the development of public spaces with the scope for intercultural encounters and the re-appropriation of a unique, complex heritage.

**DESCRIPTION:** Making interculturalism 'real' is also about ensuring it becomes part of public community space. Recalling the historic reality of Valletta as a result of successive movements of diverse groups of people can also help make interculturalism 'normal' for today's population.

### ACTION 6.1

#### Development of intercultural public spaces

##### ACTIVITIES

The Valletta Masterplan being developed by government should address the relative lack of public space in the city and favour the configuration of such space in a manner conducive to fostering community encounters.

Abandoned publicly-owned buildings should be designated for positive social use, through being regenerated in collaboration with cultural organisations or NGOs. The Valletta 2018 Cultural Mapping project, which focuses on the cultural uses of public space, provides a means of reflection and identification of untapped potential in this regard and should make recommendations to central government about the use of spaces within the city walls for a more social oriented use that encourages intercultural dialogue and mixing.

##### RESPONSIBILITIES

The Valletta 2018 cultural mapping project will integrate this into their agenda



## ACTION 6.2

### The mainstreaming and promotion of interculturalism within cultural spaces in the city

#### ACTIVITIES

VLC, together with the Valletta 2018 Foundation, ACM, and other relevant stakeholders will take responsibility to encourage this development of intercultural spaces. For example, the curators of museums in Valletta should be invited to reflect on their work as seen through an intercultural lens, such as:

- The National Museum of Archaeology could be encouraged to represent Malta's ancient history as a civilisational kaleidoscope.
- The newly-restored Fort St Elmo could be invited to represent itself and its exhibits as a space for exploration of a heritage not just of occupation and resistance but of influence and enrichment.
- The new Museum of Arts, a flagship Valletta 2018 project which is already exploring the notion of 'community curation', will be urged to recognise the diversity of that community and to connect the local to the global through visual artistic expressions which question sealed-off conceptions of national cultural spheres.
- The Heritage Agency will be urged to innovate in the signage of these institutions, including through multi-lingual signs and materials.
- Development of an empathy museum bringing together initiatives from local Maltese artists about the people and places of Malta and Valletta.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

VLC, together with Valletta 2018 foundation and ACM, and the UoM where appropriate will take responsibility to encourage this development of intercultural spaces.

## ACTION 6.3

### Developing a brand for Intercultural Valletta

#### ACTIVITIES

VLC and the Valletta 2018 Foundation will approach and work with the MCAST Institute of Art and Design and the Design Cluster to generate graphic visual imagery for Intercultural Valletta. This could include the following:

- An Intercultural Valletta logo—which could also be used as a type of quality mark for initiatives and projects which promote an intercultural approach in the city.
- The potential of Valletta's walled character for large-scale graphic projections, particular at night and during carnival, will be explored.
- Assistance will be sought more widely from academics in the University of Malta departments of architecture, media and fine arts, with a view to presenting powerful visual representations of the intercultural message.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

The steering committee will liaise with VLC and Valletta 2018 to push forward this communications agenda

## OBJECTIVE 7: To open up popular culture in Valletta to the celebration of diversity and to privilege support for forms of expression with an intercultural commitment.

**DESCRIPTION:** It is critical that citizens of Valletta and Malta as a whole, from whatever background, associate being intercultural, not with an abstract idea, but with a celebration of cultures and enjoyment of these and will be able to literally see it paraded in the streets in front of them. To ensure the accessibility, participation, and enjoyment by all of popular culture already present in Malta the following activities can be undertaken.

### ACTION 7.1

#### Opening up of existing cultural events to newcomers

##### ACTIVITIES

An online calendar of cultural and intercultural events in Valletta will be developed by VLC and widely disseminated, along with monthly offline versions disseminated in English and Maltese to residents.

The carnival in February will be treated as a major public expression of the interculturality of contemporary Valletta. There will be an opening up to newcomers, including by inviting minority associations and cultural centres to engage in float-building and costume design, again drawing on assistance from the Design Cluster.

Band clubs and local bands will be encouraged to open up and collaborate with newcomers and foreign musicians living in Valletta drawing on the Valletta 2018 Band on the Run project as a stimulus.

Organisers of feast days will be invited to consider how, regardless of the historic religious association of each holiday, it can be redefined as inclusive of all in today's Valletta.

Sports clubs will be approached with a view to involving them in reaching out to migrant communities and in particular recognising the centrality and followership of football as a sport in Malta, football authorities will be invited to assist through its players with promotion of UEFA's 'respect' message, which will also be foregrounded in the UEFA under-17 tournament in Valletta in 2018.

##### RESPONSIBILITIES

VLC will prioritise the development of a cultural calendar and will ensure that the public is made aware of this.

VLC will liaise with event organisers and implementers to encourage more cultural mixing as part of events occurring in Valletta.

VLC will approach sports clubs and football clubs in Valletta with support from the steering committee to discuss how football/sport can be used to spread the message of intercultural understanding .

## ACTION 7.2

### Support to artistic and cultural projects that promote intercultural dialogue

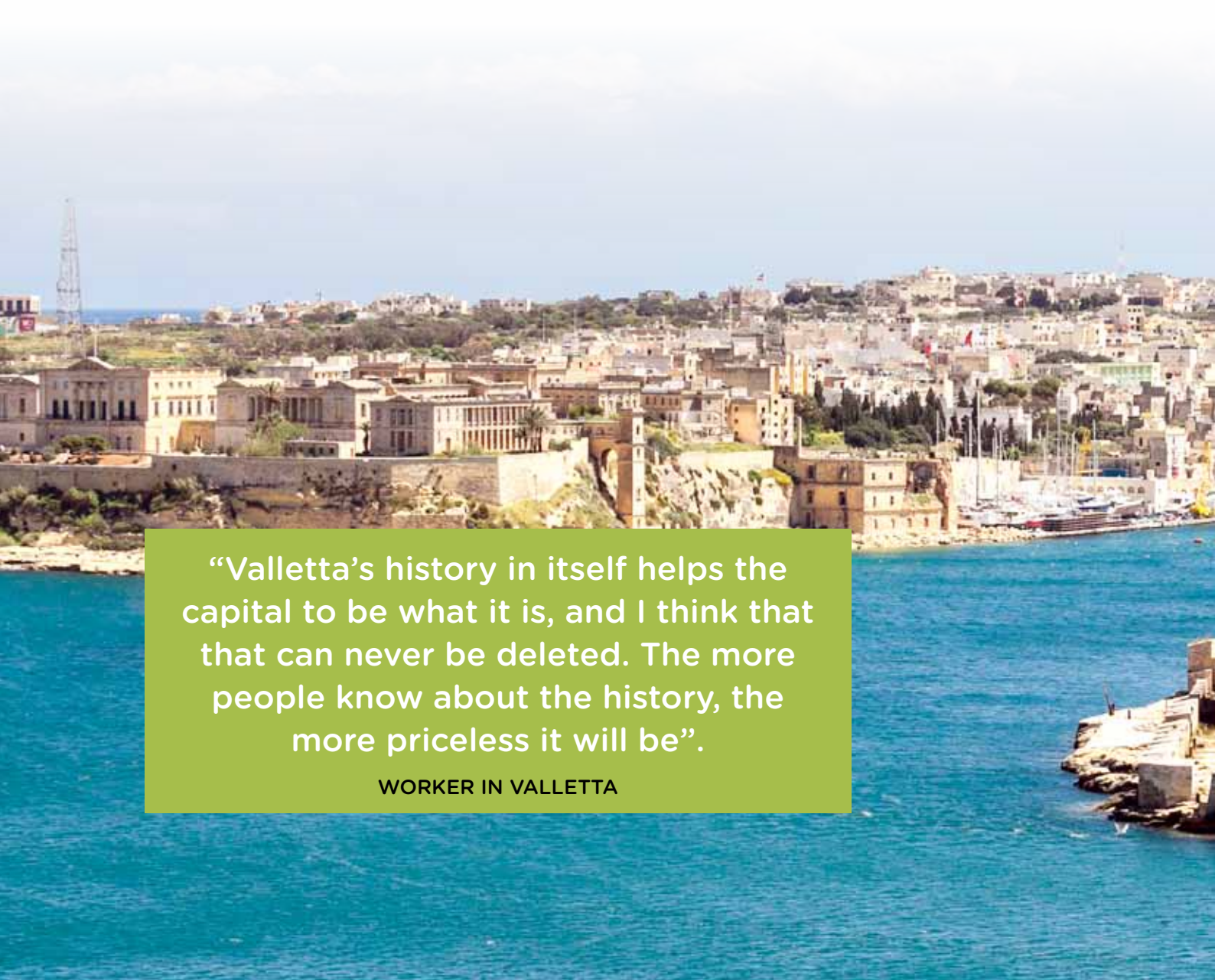
ACTIVITIES

The Arts Council Malta and Valletta 2018 will continue to encourage and privilege support for intercultural projects, which bring together individuals of diverse communities and foster a sense of common humanity and reciprocal recognition in a spirit of tolerance including, for example, but not exclusively through the ACM's Creative Communities scheme.

Successful cases of projects and initiatives will be used to promote further initiatives and further understanding of interculturalism.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Arts Council Malta and Valletta 2018 will be responsible to push this agenda forward.



“Valletta’s history in itself helps the capital to be what it is, and I think that that can never be deleted. The more people know about the history, the more priceless it will be”.

WORKER IN VALLETTA

## OBJECTIVE 8: To project Valletta as an international cultural meeting-point, adding to its popular tourism offer, developing transcultural business links and fostering cultural exchanges.

**DESCRIPTION:** The international dimension of this strategy falls last but by no means least. Redefining the setting of Valletta internationally in a spirit of courage and adventure, rather than fear and defensiveness, is critical to the success of the strategy as a whole, including through connecting to aspirations for growth and development.

### ACTION 8.1

#### Promote Valletta as an intercultural hotspot externally to attract tourists and businesses to Malta

##### ACTIVITIES

Valletta will seek to scale up and refresh its tourism offer, giving it a unifying intercultural stamp (including through use of the new logo).

It will brand itself as a unique Mediterranean meeting-point, a deep reservoir of cultural artefacts, spaces and initiatives to attract the curiosity of a multitude of visitors in the years ahead. It will exploit the transcultural connections of its increasingly diverse population with other MENA countries, to expand business supply-chains across the region, brokering connections with the Malta business and professional associations to that effect.

##### RESPONSIBILITIES

VLC will discuss with relevant authorities such as MTA, MBB etc on how best to use the Intercultural City stamp as a means to enhance interest in the city and the country.





**ACTION 8.2****Utilise national and international events to best advantage for Valletta to communicate externally its intercultural advantage****ACTIVITIES**

The 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Valletta's foundation in 2016, Malta's EU presidency in 2017 and Valletta 2018 will all be used as promotional opportunities for Valletta as an intercultural city. Additionally, Valletta also has the presidency of the European Walled Towns in 2017, Valletta will participate in the Federation of World Carnival Cities and Valletta has applied to be the European Capital of Sport and the European Capital of Gastronomy. These will also be opportunities for Valletta to expand and promote its intercultural credentials.

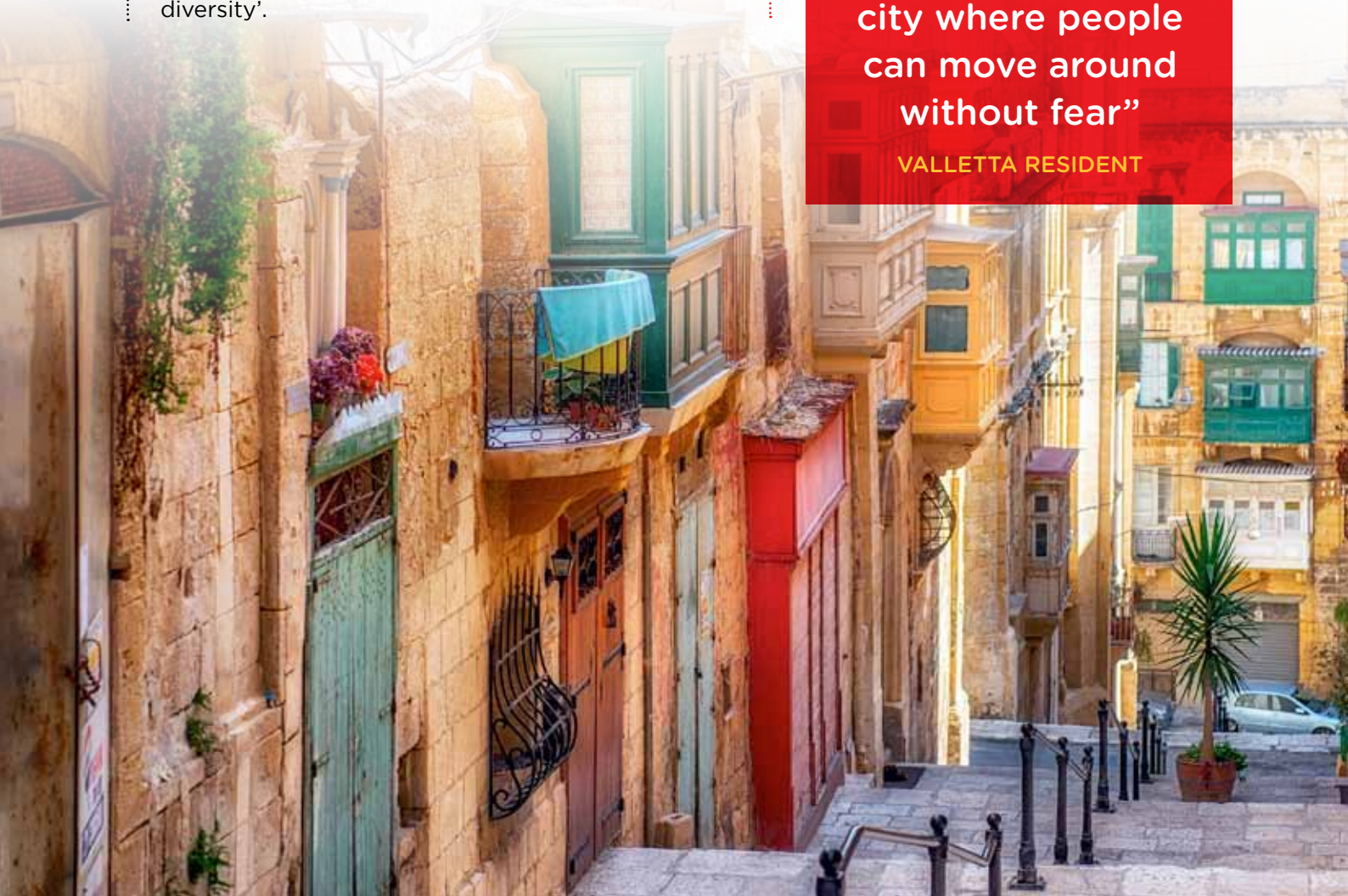
Developing links to other countries and cities and promoting Valletta as an intercultural city through exchange will be pursued, *inter alia*, through the annual conference on Cultural Relations in Europe and the Mediterranean, which Valletta 2018 initiated in 2014, and the brief of the St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity to foster international cultural exchanges, cultivating 'a sense of cultural identity based on local dimensions and international diversity'.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

VLC will seek to publicise through these means Valletta's intercultural credentials

**“Valletta is a safe city where people can move around without fear”**

**VALLETTA RESIDENT**



# Governance Structures

## Management

In order to drive the process of strategy implementation forward, a steering committee will be set up which will include representatives from Valletta Local Council and key stakeholders including SOS Malta, Valletta 2018 and the Arts Council Malta and other interested migrant-led and cultural NGOs or experts, as well as residents of Valletta and migrants living in Valletta.

This steering committee will seek to build relations and communication with other key agencies, such as the IoM and UNHCR (if not part of the steering committee) and the Platform of Human Rights Organisations (PHROM) to ensure channels for involvement, consultation and communication to widen impact of the strategy.

The steering committee will be responsible for liaising with relevant units in government such as the Ministry of Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties and the Ministry of Education, to ensure that synergies between this strategy and national level policy can be sought and the success of the strategy will be ensured.

This strategic partnership arrangement will provide a solution to the recognised problems of intercultural interventions in the past being *ad hoc* and project-based, rather than enduring, and being fragmented across different agencies and NGOs, rather than 'joined-up'.

This structure will recognise the need for individuals from minority backgrounds to be treated as potentially active agents, rather than merely passive recipients of

services. It will also provide a model for the kind of consultation arrangement which the Ministry of Social Dialogue plans to set up nationally.

## Review

The Steering Committee will be responsible for setting out an agenda of meetings, consultations and events as required by the strategy to ensure that actions are being initiated, documented and shared that could contribute to the achievement of the strategy objectives.

An annual review of the strategy will be undertaken by the Steering Committee, which will include a consultation with stakeholders to understand their work in the different areas of action, facilitate networking and joined up working and to analyse the relevance and effectiveness of the strategy.

As a means to measure improvement, Valletta will use the Intercultural Cities network to benchmark its achievements and to engage in the associated international sharing of good practice. The partnership will take responsibility for the periodic updating of Valletta's performance *vis-à-vis* the Intercultural Cities Index.

The strategy has been consciously prepared to run for three years, until 2018, in the first instance, so that it can be reviewed at the conclusion of the Valletta 2018 project and with a view to the legacy that it will bring.

A final evaluation of the strategy will be undertaken in 2018 during the Valletta 2018 year and its achievements will be publicised as a means to illustrate Valletta's

progress and credentials as a cultural and intercultural capital.

## Communication

Communication of and for the strategy is key for the achievement of the objectives contained within this document.

There is a clear need for the media to frame issues of diversity in Valletta and communicating this strategy and associated messages will be key to a more rounded and positive reframing. All stakeholders involved will ensure that positive messages are transmitted and encouraged from the part of the Media. Media organisations will be encouraged to ‘humanise’ their coverage of this domain, with personal narratives of individual lives. Individual journalists, bloggers and others with a strong presence on social media will be encouraged to act as vectors of interculturalism and strategic partnerships will be sought with them.

A media strategy will be established by the steering committee which will map and develop media actions over the three years. As part of this strategy, VLC will utilise its positive relationship with the media to encourage the portrayal of Valletta as an intercultural city. SOS Malta, with its experience of the *Side by Side* newspaper series, will help in this arena and will seek to encourage further initiatives such as this. UNHCR’s experience will also be drawn upon, in producing TV spots and cinema advertisements showing the resilience of migrants and their desire to contribute to their new society, and community radio initiatives coming out of minority communities such as AMAM, will be supported and publicised.

The Institute of Maltese Journalists will be invited to sustain the award, introduced through the SOS Malta Media InterAct project, to recognise journalists showing

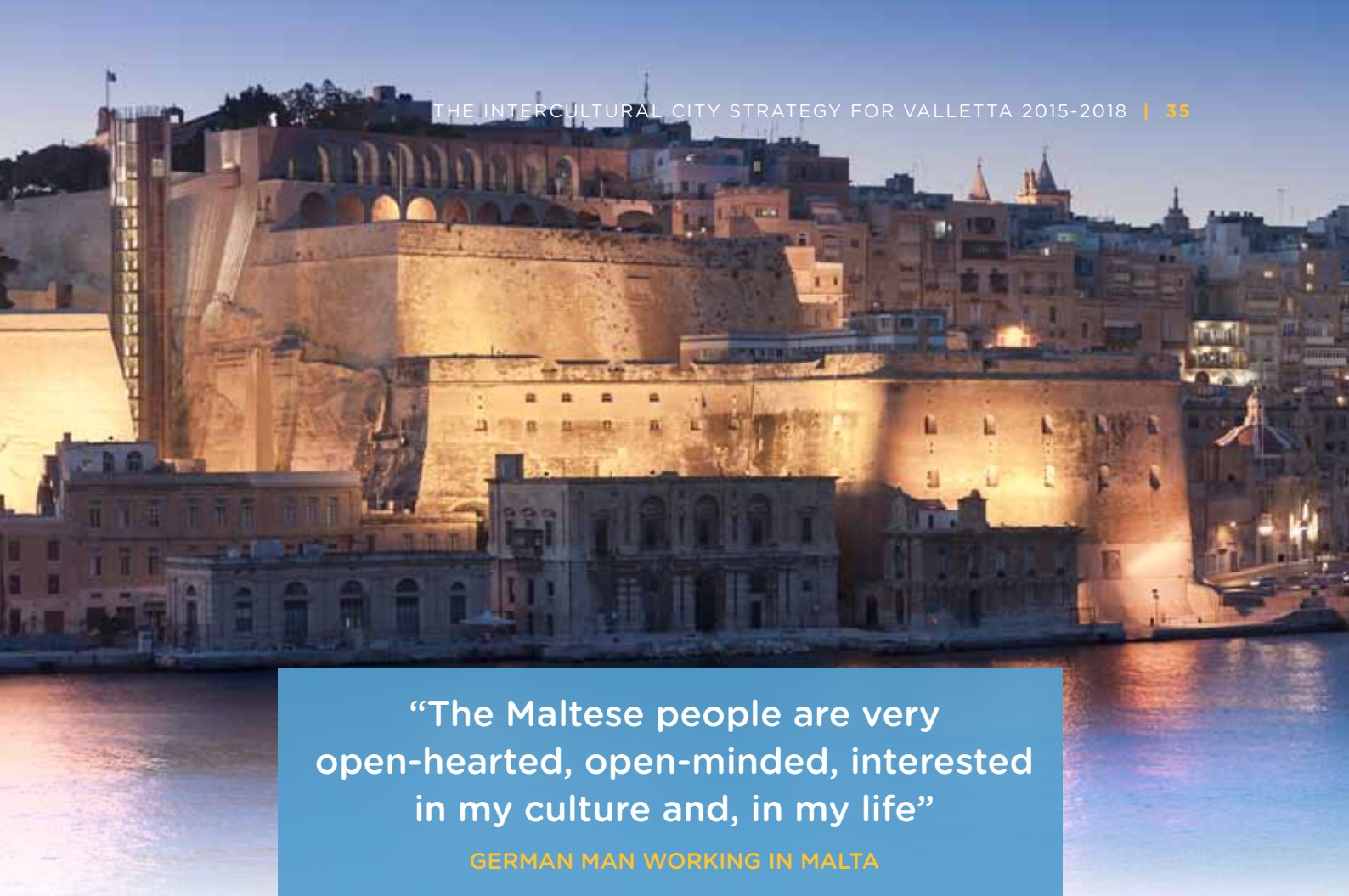
excellence in promoting integration and intercultural dialogue, as part of the annual Malta Journalism Awards.

The means through which VLC communicates to its residents must be improved and diversified. The ‘Your Voice Matters’ survey<sup>1</sup> of 45 members of minority communities by the Valletta Living Together Project found that the minority of respondents who had received a communication from the municipality had done so by post and none by email, yet they identified email overwhelmingly as the desired medium of communication. Additionally, more often than not communications coming out of the council are published in Maltese. VLC will commit to ensuring that communication to residents about both public services and cultural events will be published in Maltese and English and VLC will endeavour to diversify its means of communication to residents through social media such as Facebook, the website, email and mail outs.

An email database of intercultural ‘agents’ will be established, in addition to those members of the steering committee, who will be frequently and regularly engaged regarding the progress of this strategy and how they can be involved, and they will be invited to offer their own proposals and share their initiatives. Social media will also be used as a wider vehicle to promote the strategy and events and activities to the broader Valletta public. Additionally, all entities involved in the steering committee will be encouraged to advertise about the strategy and its progress on their own social media and websites.

The partnership basis of this strategy will again be utilised as a strength in terms of communications, drawing on the networks available to NGOs in particular to reach into minority communities. Where

<sup>1</sup> Link to report available at [www.sosmalta.org/vallettalivingtogether](http://www.sosmalta.org/vallettalivingtogether)



“The Maltese people are very open-hearted, open-minded, interested in my culture and, in my life”

GERMAN MAN WORKING IN MALTA

possible informal help with translation will also be sought in this regard to enable communication in a wider number of languages.

### Resources

The strategy itself does not have particular financial backing to carry out the tasks indicated. However, the partnership nature of this strategy will facilitate funds being sought from a variety of national, European and even philanthropic sources for the implementation of parts of the whole, such as applications for EU funding or funding from foundations for the implementation of particular initiatives such as, the training of intercultural mediators.

The Maltese government will be asked to support the strategy specifically as a pilot for best practices in accordance with the national integration strategy in train. Without exploiting goodwill, the engagement of NGOs in delivery of the strategy, and in particular in the steering committee and in communication aspects of the strategy, especially the sharing of knowledge and initiatives, will bring to bear in-kind resources of voluntary involvement.

Commitment from VLC, the Valletta 2018 Foundation and SOS Malta to the implementation of this strategy will ensure that the achievement of objectives will be sought using the resources and the will of all involved.

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#### ENDNOTES

- 1 Published by the IoM and the Ministry of Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties
- 2 A partnership between the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), in which asylum-seekers who have acquired refugee status and wish to remain in Malta are assigned a key worker who develops a personalised plan with them.
- 3 <http://empathymuseum.com/>
- 4 [www.sosmalta.org/youthupbeat](http://www.sosmalta.org/youthupbeat)

# Notes

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## THE INTERCULTURAL CITY STRATEGY FOR VALLETTA 2015-2018

Between 2014 and 2015, SOS Malta led a 16 month project, Valletta Living Together (VLT): Promoting integration through Achieving Intercultural City Status, co-financed through the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals.

The project's main objective was to promote integration, intercultural exchange and diversity in Valletta through achieving the Council of Europe's intercultural city status. The project aimed to develop through a series of workshops and exchanges, a strategy for Valletta to become an intercultural city through adhering to the Council of Europe Intercultural Cities Programme. The strategy presented in this document seeks to promote and enable the Integration of Third Country Nationals in Malta through strengthening Valletta's intercultural credentials.

SOS Malta collaborated with Valletta Local Council and the Valletta 2018 Foundation, as well as other local and national stakeholders to carry out the Intercultural Cities Programme process involving exchanges at an international level on good practices for integration as well as national level events. This project focused on the Council of Europe intercultural cities approach as a model through which integration may be achieved.

The intercultural cities process involved a diagnosis of Valletta's intercultural status, followed by an expert visit from the Council of Europe. Representatives from Malta participated in exchange visits to other intercultural cities to exchange experiences and good practices with international experts in the field of integration and intercultural cities. Various stakeholder meetings were held to consult on the content of the strategy. These activities have resulted in the development of this intercultural city 3 year strategy for Valletta. Valletta's achievement of intercultural city status will play a key aspect in delivering the Valletta 2018 European Capital of Culture objective of *growing internationally from the world within us*.

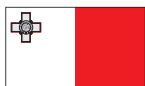


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### General Programme Solidarity & Management of Migration Flows (2007 - 2013)

This project is part-financed by the European Union  
European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals (IF)  
Co-financing rate: 75% EU Funds: 25% Beneficiary Funds

***Sustainable Management of Migration Flows***

