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ARTS COUNCIL MALTA
ANNUAL REPORT

Credits

Cover photo:

Selah by Jose Agudo as presented in
the mixed-bill *Erbgħa(4)* by ŻfinMalta, March 2015.

Photo by Joe Smith

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Executive Chair's Foreword

Albert Marshall

2016 marks the first year of Create 2020 - Arts Council Malta's ambitious 70-action plan to deliver five overarching goals over a five-year period. The first-ever strategy team within the Council rolled out its first strategic plan a few months after new legal and organisational structures were put in place. We meticulously designed the implementation programme for the year, keeping our vision and our stakeholders at the heart of our work. A year later, we are proud to report progress on 64 actions with deliverables attached to each action. Some of these actions are successfully in delivery mode whereas others are still at an embryonic phase and require more commitment from numerous stakeholders to ensure effective results. As with the implementation process of any strategy, flexibility in addressing the challenges in such a dynamic sector is key; however, our targets, ambitions and commitments remain unchanged.

With all hands on deck, in 2016 the strategy team rolled out new funding programmes and actively pursued creative brokerage with hundreds of artists. We developed new training initiatives and conducted important research to inform our decisions on future programmes. We launched new communication channels and improved our internal procedures to streamline fund administration. We championed the Maltese cultural and creative sectors on national and international platforms, including conversations outside the cultural sector. We also invested time and energy to develop our own skills and learn new ones, to reflect on some of our failures and to celebrate our achievements, wherever and whenever we could. Above all, we secured additional public investment for the arts which will help us continue delivering what we love doing best – being of service to those who are passionate about placing the arts and creativity at the heart of Malta's future.

On the festivals front, 2016 has also been a pivotal year. The different festivals celebrate various art forms, some of which are quite niche. Our festivals are primarily considered for their cultural significance; however, we also consider local engagement, education and audience development as key factors. Future trends which impact directly on the development of the different festivals also need to be considered for a more holistic approach to the experience we presently offer.

The achievements of 2016 are due to the professional work delivered by a small team of highly committed individuals. Their energy, enthusiasm and aptitude are an inspiration to anyone tasked with leading such a team. On their behalf, I would like to thank the Culture Minister Dr Owen Bonnici for his constant support and appreciation of our work as well as the Council's Board and our strategic partners, with whom we continue to build stronger and more effective projects. We are also grateful for our ongoing conversations with artists, creative professionals and organisations, whose ideas continue to shape our progress towards 2020 and beyond.

“

We have championed the Maltese cultural and creative sectors on national and international platforms, including conversations outside the cultural sector

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Organisational Structure & Governance

Overview of Directorates' Roles

Arts Council Malta operates through three distinct directorates: Strategy, Festivals and Corporate Affairs.

The creation and development of strategies for the cultural and creative sectors falls under the Strategy Directorate. The Directorate, consisting of 12 team members, is built on five strategic focal points which include internationalisation and business development but also research, education and training and diversity and communities. These points also run through the Council's national strategy for the cultural and creative sectors for the years 2016-2020, which was launched in 2015.

The Directorate also focuses on the management and development of the funding portfolio, which currently includes nine national funding programmes amounting to around 1.5 million euro. A brokerage team also assists operators in the cultural and creative sectors to maximize their potential.

Festivals fall under their own distinct Directorate, whose role it is to focus on the management and development of the diverse festivals portfolio of the Council. With a brief which ranges from ensuring that festivals' development is built on solid ground to issues such as audience development and cultural participation, this Directorate also aims to create a partnership with existing festivals, with the view of eventually increasing the number of festivals in the calendar. The Festivals directorate is composed of 18 members of staff.

The third directorate – Corporate Affairs – provides all the support services for the effective and efficient functioning of the other two distinctive directorates as well as the Public Cultural Organisations. This directorate, which comprises accounts, administration and HR, is made up of 14 employees.

The Arts Council Malta Board

Executive chairman: Albert Marshall

Vice chairman: Dr Paul Cachia

Members:

Marquis Nicholas de Piro

Frederick Testa

Dominic Galea

Caroline Tonna

Jackie Scott

Joe Micallef

Charles Hili

Arts Council Malta directors:

Director of Strategy: Toni Attard

Director of Festivals & Events: Annabelle Stivala

Director Corporate Affairs: Johan Galea

Arts Council Malta in 2016

Following the launch of Arts Council Malta's Create2020 Strategy at the end of 2015, 2016 was dedicated to the implementation of the 70 deliverables outlined in the five-year programme for the cultural and creative sectors.

Among these is Malta's return to the Venice Biennale after a 17-year absence, a project which will offer an important international platform for Maltese artists and the contemporary Maltese arts scene. Following an international public call, May 2016 saw the unveiling of the winning project and curatorial team and the Malta Pavilion has since gained significant momentum, with more important milestones to be unfurled in 2017.

Teatru Malta, the new project for theatre in Malta, is another Create2020 deliverable which was launched in 2016. The first artistic director was announced, paving the way for an exciting future for this project, which is not linked to a specific building or theatre but will be deeply rooted in communities and their work.

Three new funding programmes were also launched in the course of the year. Through the Cultural Partnership Agreement, 11 organisations and festivals active in the cultural and creative sectors were selected to become ACM's strategic partners during the years 2017-19. Between them, these entities will receive a total of over one million euro; in return they will be required to further the Council's strategic aims.

Earlier in the year, the newly-revamped Malta Digital Games Fund and the Multi-Annual Support Grant, which aims to support long-term creative collaborative projects involving at least one international partner, were also launched. The new funding programmes were also accompanied by a series of information sessions as well as the ACMlab series, which deal with issues and themes relevant to the cultural and creative sectors.

Other initiatives included the launch of the 150% tax deduction scheme on donations to culture, the opening of an ACM office in New York and a new Oħlom Oħloq series, a set of TV clips inspired by the transformative power of the arts and how they touch people's lives. ACM was also the entity behind the cultural programme related to the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, an extensive programme with over 50 activities to be presented around the world.

2016 will also be remembered for Malta's hosting of the 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture. Policymakers, artists and speakers converged upon Valletta, where they shared a common aspiration – that of reinstating the centrality of the arts in our lives. For three days, 350 delegates from 80 countries challenged and inspired each other on these and other key issues running through the arts today.

All these initiatives have consolidated Arts Council Malta's standing as an effective leader in the field, which is not only in touch with the needs of the cultural and creative sectors but also acts as a strategic centre of gravity for the eight public cultural organisations under its remit. A year since the launch of the strategy, the Council is well on its way to implementing its 70 stated deliverables, which will result in a transformed ecology, placing the arts at the heart of Malta's future.

Arts Council Malta in 2016

January 2016

- The first ACMLab session, *Crowdfunding the Arts*
- The first clip from *Oħlom Oħloq*, a series of clips featuring key people whose lives have been transformed by the arts, is aired on national television
- Launch of the full version of the new www.artscouncilmalta.org

February 2016

Launch of the Malta Showcase 2016-2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU edition

March 2016

- Arts Council Malta supports new evening diploma in Maltese Literature
- Launch of the Research Support Grant, one of the strands of the newly-redesigned Malta Arts Fund
- Launch of the 150% tax deduction scheme

May 2016

Arts Council Malta marks first anniversary since the passing of the law which provided the Council with a new legal framework. Less than six months since the launch of the Council's Create2020 Strategy, 53 out of 70 strategic listed actions are already in progress

April 2016

Launch of the new Gozo Cultural Support Programme

December 2016

- ACM awards two prizes for translation to National Book Prize winners
- A public talk on *Reviewing the Arts: A Conversation between Critics and Artists* was delivered by UK theatre critic Mark Fisher as part of a short course organised by ACM in collaboration with the University Of Malta
- Sean Buhagiar is announced as the first artistic director of Teatru Malta, the new project for theatre in Malta
- Launch of the official cultural programme of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, themed *rEUnion*

November 2016

Arts Council Malta welcomes the increased investment in the cultural and creative sectors announced in the 2017 National Budget

May 2016

Raphael Vella and Bettina Hutschek announced as the two artist-curators for the Malta Pavilion at the Biennale di Venezia 2017

October 2016

The 7th World Summit on Arts & Culture is held in Valletta. The Summit brought together over 380 delegates from nearly 90 countries to debate new approaches to cultural leadership

June 2016

Arts Council Malta launched the revamped Malta Digital Games Fund (MDGF), which aims to encourage the creation of digital games by small companies and groups of individuals based in Malta

July 2016

- Launch of the Multi-Annual Support Grant, the third strand of the Malta Arts Fund
- Cultural Partnership Agreement: announcement of new strategic three-year partnerships with 11 organisations and festivals active in the cultural and creative sectors selected to become Arts Council Malta's strategic partners during the years 2017-19
- Arvo Pärt attends the performance of his compositions at St John's co-Cathedral, Valletta, as part of the Malta International Arts Festival
- International jazz artists Snarky Puppy perform at the Malta Jazz Festival at Ta' Liesse, Valletta
- The first edition of the Rock Festival was held at Ta' Liesse Valletta

June 2016

Arts Council Malta in New York elected as a full member of the EUNIC New York cluster during the EUNIC NY cluster 44th meeting


BUDGET 2016

Cultural and Creative Sector Highlights

€ **52.5**
MILLION

Total budgeted
**GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE
ON THE CULTURAL &
CREATIVE SECTOR (CCS)**
for 2016 amounted to **€52.5 million**

39% A 39% increase from
2015 budgetary
estimates



1.4%
Of Total
Government
Expenditure

Surpassing the 1% mark
for the first time

60,000,000
50,000,000
40,000,000
30,000,000
20,000,000
10,000,000

TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN CCS

€

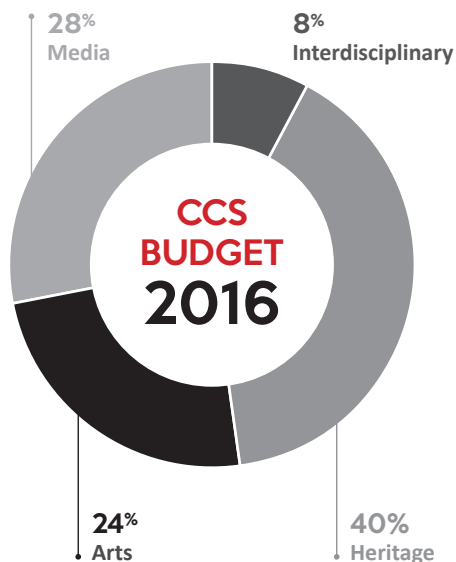
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016

€ **122**



This translates to **€122***
per head, €35 more
than that allocated for 2015
and €48 over that of 2014

*Based on NSO 2014 population figures



Each of the four main components of the sector

Heritage, Arts, Media & Interdisciplinary

registered an increase with overall capital expenditure almost doubling (88%)

Increase in funding

Looking back, since 2012 each of these four saw marginal increases year-on-year. However in 2016 there were exponential increases in the **heritage** and **media** sectors (€6 million and €5 million respectively) while the **arts** had their **highest marginal increase** in the past 5 years (over €2 million)

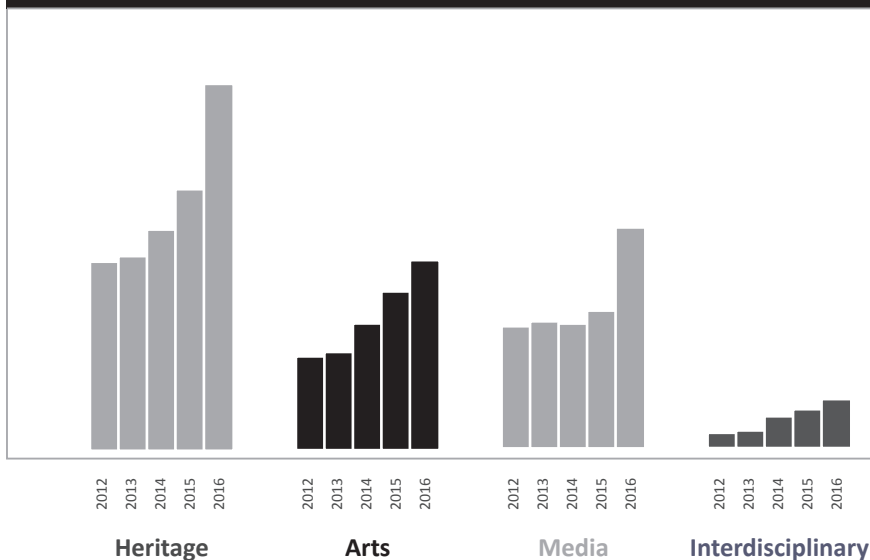
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12,000,000

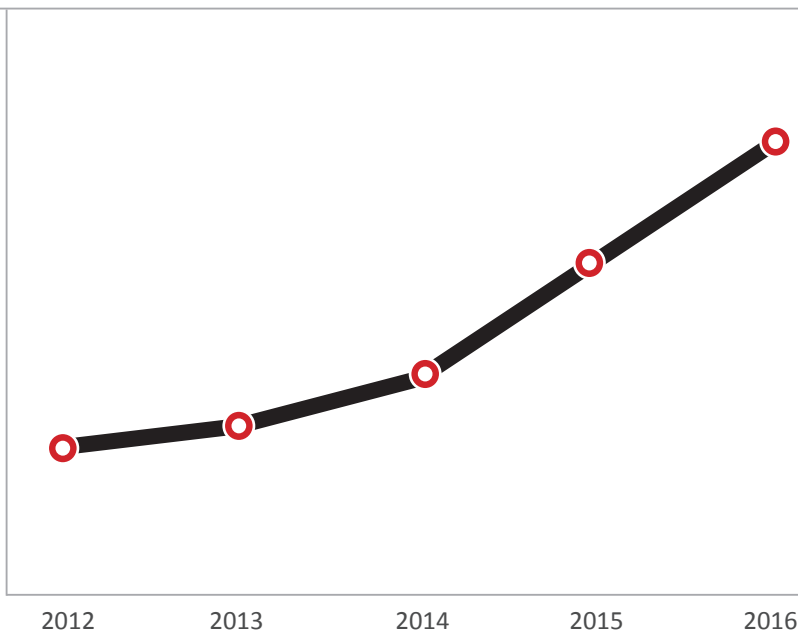
10,000,000

8,000,000

6,000,000

4,000,000

2,000,000



Public Cultural Organisations

37%

Increase over the 2015 budget



Total expenditure on **public cultural organisations** falling under the legal remit of Arts Council Malta saw an increase of 37% over 2015 budget with a total of almost **€11 million**.

Government Budget 2016 allocations to ACM and Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs)

ACM recurrent expenditure 2016	
Arts Council Malta	€ 1,575,000

ACM programmes and initiatives 2016	
	€
Malta Arts Fund	270,000
Cultural Export Fund	100,000
Cultural Partnership Agreement	300,000
Kreattiv	80,000
Creative Communities	150,000
Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività	70,000
KulturaTV	300,000
Malta Digital Games Fund	100,000
La Biennale di Venezia	100,000
Teatru Malta	100,000
Support to Cultural NGOs/Enterprises	140,000
TOTAL	€ 1,710,000

ACM Festivals	
	€
The Three Palaces Festival	80,000
Rock Festival	200,000
Arts and Culture Events	480,000
Carnival village	800,000
TOTAL	€ 1,560,000

Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs)	
	€
Recurrent and capital expenditure	
Teatru Manoel	1,510,000
The Valletta 2018 Foundation	3,226,000
Pjazza Teatru Rjal	2,170,000
ŻfinMalta	400,000
Fondazzjoni Kreattività	1,110,000
The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra	2,020,000
Mediterranean Conference Centre	400,000
TOTAL	€ 10,836,000

Strategy

A photograph of a wire sculpture titled 'Birds on a Wire'. The sculpture consists of several birds made from thin, dark wire, perched on a central vertical wire. The birds are positioned at different heights and angles, some facing forward and others in profile. The background is a light, neutral color, and the lighting creates soft shadows, highlighting the intricate details of the wirework.

Birds on a Wire, Gozo College Secondary School,
a Kreattiv Project. Photo by Darrin Zammit Lupi

Our Vision

Placing the arts and creativity at the heart of Malta's future.

Our Mission

We invest in the cultural and creative sectors to achieve higher levels of excellence and develop Malta's creative ecology.

Our Goals

1. Nurture creative potential and support its development into professional activity.
2. Invest in artistic excellence.
3. Connect Malta to the international artistic community.
4. Provide more opportunities for people to engage in creativity.
5. Build the capacity of Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs).

Progress to date for the Create2020 Strategy Actions

Based on the five strategic goals outlined in the Create2020 strategy, 70 actions were established to address three stakeholder groups: creative professionals, communities and public cultural organisations. 64 of these actions were initiated in 2016 and were monitored against planned measures which were set at the beginning of the year. Qualitative and quantitative indicators were gathered on a quarterly basis in order to assess the progress of each measure against its respective action. The below summarises the progress made throughout 2016 for each of the 64 actions:

FUNDING

ACTION 1: Develop a five-year strategic funding portfolio to invest €10 million in creative professionals, practitioners, cultural organisations and organisations engaged in cultural initiatives, through strategic and development funding programmes targeting 750 projects and beneficiaries.

In 2016, Arts Council Malta managed a total number of 23 calls across eight funding programmes, received 433 applications and awarded 150 beneficiaries across various arts forms and creative disciplines. An average of one out of every three applications was awarded, granting beneficiaries a total of €1,078,217. As part of the development of the strategic funding portfolio, the call for applications for the Cultural Partnership Agreement was launched in 2016.

ACTION 2: Invest €1.3 million in Malta Arts Fund research, development and multi-annual project grants.

In 2016, following a public consultation process, the Malta Arts Fund was re-launched in order to better fulfil its mission to support excellent projects at various stages of their development. During the first quarter, the Research Support Grant - addressing practice-based research - was introduced together with the revamped Project Support Grant. During the second quarter, the Multi-Annual Project Grant - addressing long-term international collaborative projects - was launched. For this first session of the fund, Arts Council Malta collaborated with the Valletta2018 Foundation and the four projects selected will form part of the foundation's artistic programme. In 2016, 30 projects were supported through the Malta Arts Fund. Total investment in 2016 reached €258,813.

ACTION 3: Develop a regular funding programme for partner organisations to implement this strategy.

In 2016, Arts Council Malta launched the Cultural Partnership Agreement as a source of regular funding for organisations from 2017 till 2019. Following a competitive call, 11 organisations and festivals active in the cultural and creative sectors were selected to become Arts Council Malta's strategic partners during the years 2017-19. Throughout this period, these entities will receive a total of over one million euro through the programme. In return, they will be required to further the Council's strategic aims as laid out in the Create2020 strategy. The selected organisations were the META Foundation; Teatru Salesjan; Opening Doors Association; BLITZ and Kinemastik while the selected festivals are: The Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival organised by Inizjamed; the Malta Short Film Festival organised by the Malta Film Foundation, the designers' component of the Malta Fashion Week, the Valletta Film Festival organised by the Film Grain Foundation, L-Għanja tal Poplu and the Beland Music Festival.

ACTION 4: Establish a new funding programme for emerging artists as part of the National Fund for Excellence.

In 2016 Arts Council Malta initiated consultations with the sector as well as with other partners to create and develop this new programme which will primarily encourage and reward excellence at various stages of creative practitioners' careers. Following confirmation of the funding allocation in the 2017 Budget, the Strategy team actively engaged in the preparation of guidelines/calls for applications to be further specified during the programme's launch in 2017.

ACTION 5: Establish a new funding programme for training and continuous professional development as part of the National Fund for Excellence

The rationale of the programme, developed in 2016, was successfully presented as a new budgetary measure announced in Budget 2017.

ACTION 6: Increase co-funding mechanisms for our portfolio through public private financing and crowdfunding.

The 150% tax deduction on donations to culture was introduced. Arts Council Malta actively communicated this action through a number of specific information sessions, meetings and targeted brokerage interventions with all major audit firms, throughout the year.

Arts Council Malta continued with its support towards the ZAAR crowdfunding platform. Out of the 10 projects presented (specifically focusing on arts and culture) three were successful and raised a total of over €10,000.

ACTION 7: Establish standard operating procedures for fund management to ensure transparency, reduce bureaucracy and simplify the application process.

The various changes and updates to consolidate the requirements of standard operating procedures which were introduced in 2015 were tested in 2016. This supported new measures such as pitching for beneficiaries, standardisation of evaluation procedures, marking and reporting of results. Throughout the year, the Strategy team organised a number of workshops to discuss the procedures, update and change wherever necessary.

ACTION 8: Increase the use of online funding applications for a greener and more efficient funding process.

A bespoke system to facilitate online funding applications started being developed in 2016 and is set to be functional by June 2017.

ACTION 9: Assess and monitor the strategies, financial estimates and financial records of Public Cultural Organisations.

Budget and programming meetings were held individually with PCOs in preparation for the 2017 budget submissions. Regular meetings were held between Arts Council Malta associates and their counterparts in PCOs to ensure that the Create2020 strategic objectives are streamlined in the programmes of PCOs. A quarterly reporting mechanism was also created to monitor cultural participation and programming.

ACTION 10: Set up Teatru Malta as a professional structure for the development of theatre through productions and co-productions with Maltese and international artists and companies.

Teatru Malta was announced in the Government 2016 Budget under the remit of Arts Council Malta and as a deliverable of the Government's Electoral Manifesto for Culture. The remit of Teatru Malta was developed in collaboration with the National Theatre of Wales to ensure that Teatru Malta established itself as a European project with co-creation as one of its ambitions. The project was officially launched in 2016 with the announcement of Sean Buhagiar as the first Artistic Director, following an international call.

ACTION 11: Establish Festivals Malta, including the Carnival Village Experience, as part of the Valletta 2018 legacy programme.

Festivals Malta was informally launched in 2016 with a goal to increase the quality of all festivals within its remit and to broaden access and participation. It will work on these goals with equal drive and determination. Work on the Malta Carnival Experience in 2016 was mainly characterised by the finalisation of designs and planning applications. This cultural infrastructure project forms part of the Valletta 2018 legacy programme with a vision to cultivate, through investment and support, resources for creative practitioners involved in Carnival activities.



Rel.Ink, Pierre Portelli, Project Support Grant, Malta Arts Fund
Photo by Darrin Zammit Lupi

BROKERAGE

ACTION 12: Create and update a cultural resource toolkit.

Following regular ACMLab sessions held throughout the year which tackled a number of relevant subjects, a number of toolkits were created and uploaded on the ACM website. These include guides about crowdfunding the arts, income tax, ethical considerations, PR and standard contracts.

ACTION 13: Organise regular information sessions and workshops on funding programmes.

Throughout the year, the Strategy Directorate organised a number of information sessions which provided more information about the funds managed by the Council as well as guidance in terms of project development. An average of 300 people attended the various sessions, which included the Project Development workshop, targeted information sessions for University students and Malta Youth Orchestra musicians as well as information sessions about specific funds, such as the Multi-Annual Support Grant, Creative Communities, the Translation Grant and the Culture Pass info session.

ACTION 14: Facilitate regular networking sessions between the identified stakeholders in the strategy and other sectors.

In 2016 Arts Council Malta organised two specific networking sessions. During the Kreattiv networking session, schools were encouraged to meet creative practitioners and develop projects together. In the session focusing on communication, creative practitioners were encouraged to meet journalists from different media houses and present their projects through a curated speed dating session.

ACTION 15: Design thematic and project development seminars.

A total of 12 ACMLab sessions were organised in 2016 focusing on a wide range of subjects, including crowdfunding, strategic planning, sponsorships and fundraising, ethical considerations, freelancing in the arts, pitching internationally, approaching the media, organisations' set-up, inspiring young audiences and critical reviewing. A total of 460 people attended the different sessions.

ACTION 16: Organise Information sessions on intellectual property rights and other legal matters.

In 2016 ACM organised an information session led by Dr Jeanine Rizzo and the Council's legal officer Dr Luke Dalli which specifically tackled intellectual property. A total of 37 people attended the session. Information on Intellectual Property Rights and legal support was also provided during ad-hoc meetings set by the Legal Officer following queries raised by individual artists and arts organisations.

ACTION 17: Manage an ongoing one-to-one brokerage service through multiple communication platforms which will also be available during set 'after office' hours.

Throughout the year, Arts Council Malta offered a continuous brokerage service to the sector through calls, emails and direct meetings both in Malta and in Gozo, addressing a total of 500 main queries from the sector.

ACTION 18: Design brokerage services that are accessible to communities identified in the strategy by increasing networking possibilities and fund application submissions by targeted groups.

In collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretariat for Local Government, Arts Council Malta organised information sessions about the Creative Communities fund in the different regions. 75 people attended these sessions.

ACTION 19: Celebrate the achievements of the cultural and creative sectors through the establishment of the yearly Arts Council Malta Awards.

Arts Council Malta's proposal to launch the first edition of Arts Awards was accepted as a budgetary measure for 2017 and integrated in the National Fund for Artistic Excellence.

ACTION 20: Lead a network of all Public Cultural Organisations to address programming and operational requirements, increase inter-PCO collaboration and share resources and expertise.

Quarterly meetings were held with the senior management of PCOs to support further inter-PCO collaboration and to discuss the results of research conducted by Arts Council Malta.

ACTION 21: Advise Government on cultural infrastructure projects and on the governance structures that may be created through new cultural projects to ensure sustainable and effective management.

Arts Council Malta's direct involvement in cultural infrastructure projects in 2016 was related to the Carnival Village Experience (*see Action 11*).

EDUCATION

ACTION 22: Invest a minimum of €400,000 in the Kreattiv programme. We will also measure the programme's impact on creativity in schools.

43 applications were received for the Kreattiv call of 2016, of which 17 were successful, bringing together 29 creative practitioners collaborating with 16 schools and engaging an estimated 1,500 students. The Kreattiv research, as a joint research project with the University of Malta (UOM), started in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2018.

ACTION 23: Collaborate with education entities and advocate for the inclusion of a broader spectrum of Arts Education across all schools in Malta and Gozo.

A proposal was presented on behalf of Arts Council Malta by a research team from the University of Malta to assess the provision of arts education in primary education. Due to the proposed changes in the broader educational framework, this action has been temporarily put on hold.

ACTION 24: Invest a minimum of €500,000 in the cultural participation programme to ensure that every secondary school student will experience a minimum of one artistic production a year produced by creative professionals and presented through a curated programme. We will evaluate this programme and assess its extension to primary schools.

A call for applications for the new Culture Pass programme – which replaced the Culture Card scheme, was issued by the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government (MJCL) in collaboration with ACM during the second quarter of 2016. 30 artistic events were selected and are being promoted with schools and creative professionals so that every secondary school student will experience at least one cultural event per year. 25,000 students in all secondary schools in Malta and Gozo may benefit from this initiative.

ACTION 25: Work with all Public Cultural Organisations to develop a yearly comprehensive learning programme addressing the objectives of the strategy.

Action will be initiated in 2017.

ACTION 26: Develop the culture mentors network that brings together educators who serve as cultural ambassadors in schools.

Action will be initiated in 2017.

ACTION 27: Collaborate with education entities and industry professionals to establish a national register for accredited arts educators and arts education institutions.

Discussions started with Education officials to determine a way forward and set common grounds for an accreditation system for the arts. The implementation of this action is on hold due to changes in MEDE regulations for accreditation in informal learning.

TRAINING

ACTION 28: Create skills development programmes targeting sectoral gaps and needs for the improvement of artistic practice. Priority will be given to scriptwriting for theatre and film, as well as technical and production skills, and critical reviewing.

Scriptwriting Courses were held in collaboration with Spazju Kreattiv and UOM consisting of four workshops delivered by two international tutors. Eight new scripts were developed during these workshops with readings of the works planned for 2017.

In December 2016, Mark Fisher, theatre critic for *The Guardian*, delivered a short course in critical reviewing. Three two-hour sessions targeted students aspiring to nurture a critical mind, while other meetings were held with established critics. A public debate on the topic with a participation of 80 arts practitioners and seven established reviewers was held in December 2016 at Spazju Kreattiv.

ACTION 29: Develop skills training programmes related to business development, financial planning and marketing.

In 2016, Arts Council Malta organised an intensive course on strategic planning for 18 participants from 11 beneficiary organisations of the Cultural Partnership Agreement and the Gozo Cultural Support Programme. The course was delivered by Dr David Stevenson from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.

ACTION 30: Provide training and information on artist mobility, international collaboration and export.

A total of 27 creative professionals representing artist-led organisations and public cultural organisations (PCOs) attended a course on internationalisation. The course also included a series of webinars delivered by experts from Visiting Arts London. This initiative focused on specific gaps and lacunae encountered by artists in the area of internationalisation.

An ACMlab session focusing on international collaboration and pitching on international platforms was held in June 2016.

ACTION 31: Develop an apprenticeship programme to expose young artists to the work of creative professionals.

During the last quarter of 2016, a programme between Arts Council Malta and MCAST was set to pilot the first eight apprenticeships with ACM and PCOs. MCAST students who aspire to pursue a career in the arts will be benefitting directly from this initiative.

ACTION 32: Develop specialised programmes that support the professional development of the sector. Priority will be given to cultural management and cultural leadership.

Preparatory work for a European Social Fund (ESF) application, on the professional development of 341 employees of PCOs and Local Councils started in the final quarter of 2016. The application was supported by an extensive training needs analysis.

COMMUNITY CULTURAL EXCHANGE

ACTION 33: Invest a minimum of €900,000 in funding programmes targeting community exchange cultural projects.

In 2016, 16 projects out of 35 applicants were awarded funds through the Creative Communities fund. The total amount allocated was €65,153. A further €61,392 was awarded through Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività where 10 projects were selected from among 17 applicants. Both these funds focus on enhancing community and social well-being through artistic projects. In 2016, the foundations were also laid for a qualitative evaluation of these two funding programmes.

ACTION 34: Create possibilities for local cultural spaces to serve as places of exchange with other cultural practitioners.

Action to be initiated in 2017 following the implementation of Action 65.

ACTION 35: Ensure that PCO programming and festivals engage with the various communities identified in this strategy.

Action to be initiated in 2017.

ACTION 36: Create a multidisciplinary talent campus with partners for hard-to-reach youth with creative potential.

In 2016, Arts Council Malta led a proposal for an EU project aimed at the profiling and development of the creative skills of young refugees, in collaboration with highly-respected organisations in Europe. Although the project scored 85%, it could not be supported due to limited funds. The implementation of this action may be integrated in a young artists development programme in collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ, which will be launched in the first half of 2017.

ACTION 37: Develop a programme that engages the elderly and promotes intergenerational activity.

Intergenerational cultural activity was set as a priority in two funding programmes and two intergenerational projects were funded through Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività.

ACTION 38: Facilitate the accreditation of professional creative therapists working with vulnerable groups.

Arts Council Malta continued to support the Association of Creative Therapists with their initiative to secure formal accreditation as health practitioners.

ACTION 39: Include NGOs active in cultural work with the identified groups in this strategy as one of our priority areas for our partnership agreements.

Beneficiaries of the Cultural Partnership Agreement were requested to develop a due Community Action Plan to ensure that the respective target groups identified in the Create2020 strategy will be addressed throughout their work. Beneficiaries have been required to establish a long-term collaboration with one or more of the identified target groups and to define how they will be engaging with the particular community/communities.

ACTION 40: Facilitate intercultural dialogue through the establishment of an intercultural network that brings together cultural mediators and the respective ethnic communities.

Arts Council Malta represented Malta on the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) working group of European member states on Intercultural Dialogue – that was set up to compile, exchange and analyse relevant practices in the context of the crisis of refugee reception, and has been advising the Maltese Presidency Cultural Committee on matters relating to intercultural dialogue.



Collective Memories, Collective Lives, The Critical Institute, Creative Communities Fund

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

ACTION 41: Invest €700,000 in a creative start-up programme.

Action will be initiated in 2017.

ACTION 42: Invest €500,000 in games development.

The Malta Digital Games Fund (MDGF) was revamped following a study of the needs of the local start-up sector and a review of the success of the previous editions of the fund. Under the new programme, up to four games could be funded €10,000 each to develop a playable game slice, leading to a final competition. During its first run, three games out of 16 submitted applications were chosen for funding, out of which two completed phase 1. The final game competition was organised during the Global Game Jam in collaboration with the Institute of Digital Games at the University of Malta. One game was awarded €35,000 for further development and publishing.

ACTION 43: Create a comprehensive cluster policy programme.

Action will be initiated following the implementation of Action 41.

ACTION 44: Manage a tax deductions programme for arts donations.

The 150% Tax Deduction on Donations to Culture was launched in March with effect from 1st January 2016. Various meetings with both the business and organisation sector were held in order to promote this incentive. Five information sessions, 89 meetings and over 100 enquiries in respect to this initiative took place. In 2016, 40 different applications by 34 companies received a collective tax benefit of €24,222 through this scheme, resulting in a total donation of €138,412 to cultural organisations.

ACTION 45: Foster connections between the creative industries and other business sectors.

A Business Breakfast between major industry stakeholders and the cultural sector was organised to discuss new methods of collaboration between business and cultural organisations. This was followed up with one-to-one meetings with the major audit firms to identify niches where these firms could provide support.

ACTION 46: Collaborate with Malta Enterprise on bridging the gaps in areas of access to finance, skills and incentives.

In collaboration with Malta Enterprise, ACM organised information sessions for newly registered self-employed in the cultural and creative sectors. The sessions focused on tax obligations, e-business, copyright and incentives available from Malta Enterprise and were attended by around 50 people. 42 meetings were held, focusing on Malta Enterprise incentives, the majority of which were eligible to make use of Microinvest. Additionally two creatives benefited from B. Start and one from the Microguarantee.

ACTION 47: Collaborate with the respective entities to address legislation and regulations impacting the production of cultural events.

An internal report was commissioned to map the current legal framework.

ACTION 48: Collaborate with the respective entities to address the legal status of the creative professional.

In 2016 the legal office met with a number of stakeholders within the culture and creative sectors. A template contract for scriptwriters who are engaged by producers and who would want to be regulated by a contract in the fairest way possible was made available free of charge as a resource on the ACM website. Apart from this contract, the legal office has also drafted template contracts for artists, producers and other stakeholders to provide a clear guideline on how such contracts should be drafted.

INTERNATIONALISATION

ACTION 49: Invest €500,000 through the Cultural Export Fund in travel, touring and translation grants for creative practitioners seeking to attract wider audiences and markets.

In 2016, €107,342 were allocated in travel, touring and translation grants through the Cultural Export Fund. 37 beneficiaries received €40,000 through the Travel Grants; 10 beneficiaries received €47,342 through the Presentation & Touring Grant while five beneficiaries received €20,000 through the Translation Grant.

ACTION 50: Organise delegations, in collaboration with other entities, to international arts platforms including markets, fairs and festivals.

In 2016, Arts Council Malta set up an office in New York, that is also part of the EUNIC New York cluster. The office coordinated Malta's participation in the Panorama Film Festival (Rebecca Cremona) and the Animation festival in New York, as well as Malta's participation in the New Literature from Europe Festival (Immanuel Mifsud), and in the Photoville festival in New York (Ritty Tacsum).

ACTION 51: Develop the Malta Showcase as an online resource and networking platform for international promotion and showcasing opportunities.

The Malta Showcase 2016-2017 Presidency edition was launched at Spazju Kreattiv in Valletta in early 2016. For the launch, a networking event between the Malta Showcase artists and 12 European Cultural Networks Representatives was organised. During the same period, feedback from the Malta Showcase 2015 international festival delegates who reviewed the shows during the Žigužajg International Children's Festival was sent to the companies and Festival.

The Malta Showcase 2016-2017 was further developed for international promotion and showcasing opportunities, in collaboration with the Valletta 2018 Foundation, Fondazzjoni Kreattività and the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU. ACM prepared several artistic proposals which were sent out internationally to various embassies and cultural institutions for the Cultural Export programme of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, most of which were chosen from the Malta Showcase 2016-2017.

ACTION 52: Commission the Malta Pavilion at the Venice Art Biennale in 2017 and 2019.

In 2016, an international open call for curators for the 2017 Malta Pavilion at the Venice Art Biennale was launched by Arts Council Malta.

Of the 22 applications received, 14 were eligible and pitched their project proposal to the International Jury in April 2016. The project *Homo Melitensis: An incomplete inventory in 19 chapters*, by artist-curators Dr Raphael Vella and Bettina Hutschek was unanimously selected.

ACTION 53: Collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on cultural diplomacy and external cultural relations through the co-management of the Cultural Diplomacy Fund.

Arts Council Malta contributed to the evaluation of the Cultural Diplomacy Fund managed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Arts Council Malta also regularly advised the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on art-related projects and initiatives and also promoted its international opportunities on its social media platforms.

ACTION 54: Co-manage the international cultural programme of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2017.

Arts Council Malta led the design and coordination of the cultural programme which in 2017 will include 1,000 artists in artistic events in Malta and abroad. Several artists were selected from the Malta Showcase 2016-2017 edition.

In 2016, ACM attended preparatory meetings as Maltese Expert in the Presidency Chairing Team of the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) in Brussels for the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

ACTION 55: Support the development of incoming and outgoing artist residency programmes for 50 artists, implemented in collaboration with Public Cultural Organisations and festivals focusing on research, realisation of collaborative projects and exchange.

There were 13 incoming and four outgoing residencies in 2016. Incoming residencies were organised in collaboration with Spazju Kreattiv, the Valletta 2018 Foundation and Blitz. Outgoing residencies were supported through the Cultural Export Fund managed by ACM. Incoming artists came from Australia, USA, Europe and Africa while the outgoing residencies were mainly in Europe, with one residency in Africa.

ACTION 56: Support the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements and advise on cultural programming.

Advice was given on three cultural bilateral agreements while ACM also supported the implementation of cultural projects by Maltese diplomatic missions abroad. During the Malta Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2017, preparatory work for this role was conducted through training sessions organised by the General Secretariat.

ACTION 57: Facilitate international conferences and networking sessions including the 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture in 2016 and the yearly European Network Coordinators Meeting.

In collaboration with FACE (Foundation for Arts, Culture and Education), Arts Council Malta organised the fourth meeting of coordinators of European cultural networks, held at Spazju Kreattiv in February 2016. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss international cultural mobility on the occasion of a session proposed in close partnership with On the Move. Also, coordinators of the European cultural networks had the opportunity to meet with the organisation committee of the 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture, as well as to meet several Maltese artists during the launch of the Malta Showcase, also held at Spazju Kreattiv.

-IFACCA 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture

In October 2016 ACM in collaboration with IFACCA welcomed over 400 delegates from 90 countries to the 7th World Summit on Arts & Culture in Malta, held at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta. Speakers and delegates explored the theme *At the Crossroads? Cultural Leadership in the 21st Century* and addressed a number of critical issues from the impact of multilateral trade negotiations on cultural policies, to how we can advocate for freedom of expression and cultural rights (See page 56).

ACTION 58: Participate actively as members of international networks such as International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies, the European Union National Institutes of Culture, IETM and the European Festivals Association.

Arts Council Malta retained its commitment to participate actively in its partner networks with participation in the IFACCA AGM and CEO seminar held in Malta, EFA AGM in Oslo, ACEnet in Cardiff, ECBN in Brussels, IETM Conference in Beirut and EUNIC meetings in Brussels and Copenhagen.



ZIEME at the Kalmar Museum of Contemporary Art, Sweden
Katarina Lennmarker, Presentation and Touring, Cultural Export Fund
Photo by Asa Riton

RESEARCH

ACTION 59: Conduct a yearly evaluation on the implementation of targets in this strategy.

Information from the performance reviews of all strategic areas was compiled quarterly. This culminated in the Create2020 annual review as per this report. Each quarter progress on performance indicators for each action were recorded by each associate describing the planned action for the quarter, its actual output and reach.

ACTION 60: Implement an extensive research plan on audience development, social impact, artistic excellence, professionalisation and education.

The design and implementation of the Culture Participation Survey 2016 took place in collaboration with the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the Valletta 2018 Foundation. Adjustments that reflect current realities were made on the 2011 survey and new questions were added that allow for analysis of motives, barriers and attitudes of respondents in terms of their cultural participation. Furthermore, cultural market research specialists Morris, Hargreaves & McIntyre (UK) were commissioned to carry out audience segmentation analysis on Malta's market for culture, based on the survey. Data collection by the NSO took place during November 2016 for a gross sample of 1,500 and a response rate of 84% - a net sample of 1,332 through stratified random sampling and face-to-face interviews. Data was then being cleaned and anonymised for analysis as of December 2016.

ACTION 61: Publish regular reports and studies based on the research plan as resources for academic research and policy making.

Two summary analysis of findings of NSO statistical news releases on band clubs and cinemas were published on the ACM website. Two research blog posts on Valletta 2018 research seminar findings and the use of social media in arts organisations were also published. Five cultural statistics briefs based on Eurostat data and ACM initiatives data were published on ACM social media channels.

ACTION 62: Compile a yearly statistical report and review on all funding programmes and the status of the creative economy.

Statistics for 2016 funding programmes, including success and fund allocations, were compiled and included in the 2017 funding publication. The Kreattiv fund impact evaluation was carried out with the University of Malta; this involved data collection from over 400 students in 10 schools carried out during December and coordinated by ACM. The Economic Policy Department (EPD) completed the first draft of the updated creative economy report using national accounts data following consultation meetings with ACM.

ACTION 63: Participate in European research programmes on culture statistics and policy.

ACM participated in rapporteuring for the 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture and the Valletta 2018 annual conference as well as acting as a moderator for the latter. In 2016, Arts Council Malta hosted the Assembly of Stakeholders and Experts of the Council of Europe / ERICarts reporting on the Compendium of Cultural Policies & Trends in Europe. The ACM research associate also presented research on cultural participation in collaboration with the Valletta 2018 Foundation at the LOCOP (Local Cultural Operators) evaluation symposium in Plovdiv, with the outcome being a report on methodological approaches to evaluation for cultural operators to be available in 2017.

ACTION 64: Create a methodological research framework for public cultural organisations and cultural operators to collect and share data.

A standardised cultural event monitoring sheet was finalised and distributed so as to gather data from PCOs on a quarterly basis. This data consisted of productions and performances produced/co-produced or hosted by PCOs, collaborators, ticket sales and income/expenditure for each event. Data on PCO programming was also collected through standardised framework in order to inform 2017 budgetary financial allocations.

ACTION 65: Map cultural spaces and resources within communities.

A theatres audit for 78 theatres was commissioned by ACM and implemented by Valletta 2018. A catalogue that documents the findings is being designed to serve as a tool to promote the theatres to potential users and serve as a platform for further discussions on the structural needs of theatres in Malta. Two preliminary reports were issued by the researchers and six scientific committee meetings were held to discuss data collection and dissemination.

COMMUNICATION

ACTION 66: Develop a new website that will serve as a virtual platform for information, resources and communication with Arts Council Malta.

In January 2016, Arts Council Malta launched its new website *www.artscouncilmalta.org* which replaced the outdated *www.maltaculture.com*. With its accessible and clean design, regular news and blog updates, toolkits and resources, the website not only reflects the work ongoing at the Council but is rapidly turning into a valuable research and information tool for artists and creative practitioners. In 2016, work was also begun on the next stage – online applications for the Council’s various programmes – a feature which is expected to be launched around June 2017.

ACTION 67: Provide regular updates on ACM funding programmes and brokerage services through social media and a monthly newsletter.

ACM was present and active on social media throughout 2016, providing a more accessible side to the Council as well as immediate insight into the Council’s programmes and initiatives. In March 2016, the Council issued its first monthly newsletter, with news on the Council’s programmes, initiatives and funded projects. By the end of the year, facebook likes had risen by 1,242; Twitter by 283 and the newsletter’s open rate stood consistently above the 20% mark. In this way, ACM maintains regular contact with its users who can stay in touch through a variety of channels.

ACTION 68: Publish a yearly calendar of funding deadlines and guidelines and the ACM report.

The Funding Publication 2016 was distributed as from December 2015, with information on ACM’s programmes, key figures on funding programmes and case studies of best practice stories. The publication is a bilingual and visually attractive publication which provides up-to-date information on the Council’s funding programmes for the coming year and which seeks to provide a glimpse into the artistic projects of the people whose lives we touch.

ACTION 69: Commission media productions that promote the sector on national and international networks.

Following the Create2020 conference held in December 2015, ACM launched a series of clips inspired by our Ohlom Ohloq Create2020 campaign, featuring key people whose lives have been transformed by the arts. The series was aired on national television between January and June 2016 and also earned a substantial following on social media. Following the success of this campaign, a new series of Ohlom Ohloq clips was planned for 2017. This time we are focusing on our funding programmes and how they help to achieve artistic dreams.

ACTION 70: Facilitate networking between cultural journalists, editors and practitioners in the cultural and creative sectors.

In October 2016, an ACMLab session on *Approaching the Media* was organised with four speakers focusing on print, TV, social media and a case study. Artists and journalists came together in a fun and interactive session which will be repeated to form ongoing fruitful relationships.

In December 2016, ACM organised a series of events together with the English Department at the University of Malta with the purpose of starting a conversation about the state of arts criticism in Malta. The programme kicked off with a three-day mini course on *Critical Reviewing in the Arts* delivered by UK theatre critic Mark Fisher, who also held an informal discussion with several local arts critics on arts criticism in Malta and beyond. This was followed by a public talk on *Reviewing the Arts: A Conversation between Critics and Artists*. The programme was a success, enlisting the support of influential academics, artists and critics, and laying the building blocks for the next step: the launching of the study units as part of the MA programme in 2017.



Funding & Brokerage 2016

Key Figures for Funding Programmes in 2016

The Malta Arts Fund

Strand 1: Research Support Grant

Applicants: 15
Beneficiaries: 7
Success rate: 47%
Amount allocated: €29,997

Strand 2: Project Support Grant

Applicants: 98
Beneficiaries: 19
Success rate: 19%
Amount allocated: €178,815
Number of individuals and organisations who benefitted from this fund: 3 organisations, 16 individuals

Strand 3: Multi Annual Support Grant

Applicants: 20
Beneficiaries: 4
Success rate: 20%
Amount allocated: €200,000 (€50,000 in 2016)
Number of organisations that benefitted from this fund: 4

Creative Communities

Applicants: 35
Beneficiaries: 16
Success rate: 46%
Amount allocated: €70,152

KulturaTV

Applicants: 17
Beneficiaries: 6
Success rate: 35%
Amount allocated: €193,000

The Cultural Partnership Agreement

Applicants: 18
Beneficiaries: 11
Success rate: 61%

Cultural Export Fund

Strand 1: Travel Grants

Applicants: 113
Beneficiaries: 37
Success rate: 33%
Amount allocated: €46,936
Top countries visited: UK, USA

Strand 2: Presentation & Touring

Applicants: 18
Beneficiaries: 10
Success rate: 56%
Amount allocated: €47,343
Top countries visited: Germany, USA, Italy

Strand 3: Translation Grant

Applicants: 11
Beneficiaries: 5
Success rate: 45%
Amount allocated: €15,737

Kreattiv

Applicants: 42
Beneficiaries: 17
Success rate: 40%
Amount allocated: €74,125

Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività

Applicants: 17
Beneficiaries: 10
Success rate: 59%
Amount allocated: €61,392

Malta Digital Games Fund

Applicants: 15
Beneficiaries Phase 1: 2
Success rate: 13%
Amount allocated: €20,000

Funded Projects 2016

AMOUNTS AWARDED IN 2016			
Fund	Beneficiary	Project	Amount awarded
Malta Arts Fund - Strand 1: Research Support Grant	Azzopardi John Paul	Exploring the internal spatial dynamics of sculpture	€5,000
	Camilleri Fiorella	Lateral Thinking in artistic collaboration: Maltese <i>Għana</i> and Japanese Nasori in the process of Musical Translation	€4,997.45
	Camilleri Rebecca	Thinking as a rehearsal space	€2,100
	Cauchi Sharleene (Charlie)	Baggage (Re)Claim	€5,000
	Ghinassi Cristina	CODE SWITCH #1	€3,700
	Pace Alexandra	Curating For The Future	€4,200
	Papadopoulou Eleni	Interaction Design intervention and engagement practices for Palazzo Falson	€5,000
	Malta Arts Fund - Strand 2: Project Support Grant	Architecture Project Ltd.	THE RABBIT-DUCK ILLUSION - The holes are not what they seem
BLITZ		Corita Kent - Exhibition and Public Programme	€10,000
Borg Kristina		YOU ARE WHAT YOU BUY	€10,000
Bugeja Gary		Tmiem	€4,144
Busuttil Carolanne		I Am Willow Branding and Singles Release	€17,478.95
Buttigieg Lawrence		SACRED PROFANE	€11,500
Calleja Gordon		Vengeance	€20,000
Camilleri Cassian		Littlebot Film Labs (Original Title: Valletta Lives)	€3,654.40
Cassar Bettina		MARA	€3,000
Creative Island		Inwardly Silent	€3,320.80
Formosa Gilbert		B'Sogħba kbira (working title)	€5,372
Grima David		"arbang"	€2,840
Grima Tyrone		Antigone	€18,000

	Mallia Jon	Erectile Dysfunction - The Stumbling Rise of The Human	€10,000
	Mangion André	Raymond "Fight" Beck	€14,000
	Portelli Peter k/a Pierre	RE.LINK	€10,000
	Psaila Jes	DUOs	€4,000
	Scicluna Kenneth	SELAH	€16,000
	Unifaun Theatre Productions	Collapse	€5,505
Malta Arts Fund - Strand 3: Multi-Annual Support Grant	ARC Research & Consultancy Ltd.	The Mediterranean Dimension: Initiation and (re)creation	€60,000
<i>Amounts are for the three years 2017-2019. In 2016 these beneficiaries received a 25% pre-financing allocation</i>	BLITZ	TRANSFORMER: International creative spaces & cultural mobility	€45,000
	More or Less Theatre	Get Your Act Together	€60,000
	Musiconnect Ltd.	Of Peace and Unrest	€35,000
Cultural Export Fund - Strand 1: Travel Grants	Agius Victor	Individui Universali	€1,182.70
	Aquilina Louise	DEMO DIVISION: AW17	€2,000
	Azzopardi Mamo Josianne	Participation at the Institute of World Literature, Harvard University, USA	€2,000
	Baldacchino Inez Kristina	Storyboarding for Film, Video and Animation - Short Course, Training	€1,000
	Balzan Charles	Anders Petersen Sicily Workshop	€1,585.14
	Bonnici Carmel	Cartoon Masters 2016 (Utrecht)	€777
	Bonnici Marisha	Teacher Summer School as part of the Cecchetti International bi-annual event Cecchettiballet2017.com	€1,704

	Borg Kristina	The Alternative Vienna (artist-in-residency)	€459
	Buhagiar Maria Josefa	Advance Gilding Techniques - Florence	€1,743
	Calleja Glen	Festival Voix Vives - mobility	€216.81
	Calleja Gordon	Vengeance: Essen Spiel Presence	€2,000
	Camilleri Joanne	Professional Development in the Art of Baroque Music	€546
	Cassar Antoine	Maltese poetry in translation – Readings, discussion, and international collaboration at Festival des Migrations, Luxembourg, March 2016	€1,681
	Cassar Robert	Participation as a professional delegate in the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2016	€1,031
	Dingli Chris	Bad Dad trial run in London as a pitch for a longer run	€1,000
	Hili Steven	Attending the London Screen writers festival 2016	€388
	Lenmarker Katarina	Initiating a world tour of a Maltese public artwork	€2,000
	Lucas Isaac	Trompetenfestival2017 (Trumpet Master class)	€315.85
	Mallia Jon	Exporting limestone cowboy to the international market	€1,790
	Mallia Sarah	E.A.S.T - The East African Soul Train	€749.50
	Mattei Emma	Winterthur – the short film festival of Switzerland www.kurzfilmtage.ch/EN	€532
	Mayo Annemarie	Attendance at the “Chaos at the Musuem” Congress, from the series Re-envisioning Exhibition Design <re-xd.org>, Buenos Aires, Argentina November 17 - 20 November 2016	€1,462
	Mifsud Immanuel	Writers’ Residency organised by the Slovene Writers Association (SWA)	€398

	Mifsud Immanuel	“Conversations in Culture” & “Maltese Literature at the Library of Congress”	€1,137.36
	Mifsud Maria	Cultural meeting for Scoring music for a potential West-End Show in Killarney and networking event at the Kerry Film Festival, 1A Windmill Ln, Blennerville, Co. Kerry, Ireland	€554.76
	Moveo Dance	Spaces II, Bits and Pieces	€1,100.96
	Portelli Jacob	Early Music Summer School	€546
	Portelli Raymond	Boomtown Fair Chapter 8	€2,000
	Schembri Karl	Participation in the 13th edition of the International Poetry Festival of Granada, Nicaragua	€2,000
	Scicluna Adrian	Andorra UNESCO Art Camp 2016	€267.50
	Sciortino Natalie	Dance Proms 2016	€1,000
	Shtogryn Zhanna Evgletta	“Now no longer- Now not yet”	€1,293
	Stivala Veronica	Participation as a Solo Artist in Finland Improv Festival, Tampere, Finland, May 31 - June 4 2016	€519
	Sultana Gabi	Gabi Sultana and Claire Edwardes with CYO in Canberra	€1,961.36
	Vella Joseph	Grand Choral/Orchestral Concert in New York	€569
	Vella Sarah	Gubbio Summer Festival	€1,070.68
	Vella Sarah Marie	ME(et) YOU	€505.10
	Visanich Martha	Musical theatre training course at the Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts, UK	€2,000
	Vukanovic Slavko	Preparation for the 2nd edition of the Valletta Film Festival through attendance at Belgrade Film Festival FEST16	€941

	Williams Tricia Dawn	Participation in the IBLA Grand Prize competition	€391.41
	Zammit Elena	BLUEPRINT Summer Intensive, Peridance Capezio Centre, New York City, USA	€2,000
	Zerafa Christine	Music Coll 2016 - Chamber Music Week	€517.50
Cultural Export Fund - Strand 2: Presentation & Touring	Cassar Gaspar Joshua	Participation & Presentation of Maltese Film Projects in the International Marketplace	€5,700
	Gaulitanus Choir	Gaulitanus Choir concert-tour – Prato	€5,000
	Kukumajsa Productions Ltd.	Simshar - France release & Tour	€8,000
	Lenmarker Katarina	Initiating a world tour of ŽIEME	€7,250
	Muller Angelique	Islander' program presentation at Zanzibar International Film Festival (Ziff 2016)	€2,752
	Pollacco Sean	Weeping Silence Italian Tour: A nautical journey with Ahab!	€2,379.19
	Soundscapes	KIRANA - children's opera project	€7,668
	Vella Raphael	Raphael Vella: Recent Works (Working title)	€5,069
	Vella Sarah	ME(et) YOU	€1,524.75
	Zarb Chris	Do Re Mi Fa	€2,000
Cultural Export Fund - Strand 3: Translation Grants	Buttigieg Alfred	Translation of three contemporary plays by Alfred Buttigieg: 'Ippermettili Nitlaq', 'Dwar Menopawsi, Minorenni u Muturi High Speed' and 'Mela Hawn xi Manikomju?'	€2,737
	Grima Adrian	Last-ditch Ecstasy – Online Poetry Videos and Print Publication	€3,000

	Midsea Books Ltd.	Translation of the original novel in Maltese 'L-Eżodu taċ-Ċikonji' by Walid Nabhan into English to be used also as a bridge-language for translation into other languages	€3,000
	Psaila Yana	'Sfidi' ta' Trevor Żahra tradott mill-Malti għar-Russu	€2,500
	Vassallo Clare	Translation into English of Trevor Zahra's recent collection of short stories, 'Vespri', published in 2015	€4,500
Creative Communities / Komunitajiet Kreattivi	Aditus Foundation	Our Island: personal accounts of protecting refugees in Malta	€4,515
	Artaker Foundation	One in a Million	€2,120
	Gabriel Caruana Foundation	Kreaturi	€5,000
	Għaqda Muzikali Beland	Beland Band, Concert showcasing music by the two great composers Mro Carlo Diacono and Mro Ray Sciberras	€5,000
	Graphic Novels Library Malta (GNLM)	GNLM – Understanding Comics and Drawing Comics Workshops 2017	€3,610
	Greenhouse Malta	Għidli Storja	€5,000
	KOPIN (Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali - Malta)	InterESTing Youth @ CCF - The National Art Museum's Holistic Educational Purposes in the 21st Century: Interactive Educational Strategies targeting Youth at the Corradino Correctional Facilities	€4,999
	Move	Vanishing Trades	€5,000
	Salesian Oratory	An Introduction to Music Production	€5,000

	Soċjetà Filarmonika L-Unjoni	Classical, Sacred and Epic: An Exploration of Diversity through Music	€5,000
	Soċjetà Filarmonika San Pietru Banda Birzeb- buġa A.D. 1990	Birzebbuġa - Riposto	€5,000
	Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija	Il-Kotra Qamet... u Lissnet Nisġa Mużikali	€3,860
	Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija	WASLET IL-BANDA... 20 sena vjaġġ	€3,796
	Soċjetà Santa Marija u Banda Re Ġorġ V	Rakkont #aj	€4,700
	Soċjetà Santa Marija u Banda Re Ġorġ V	La Semana Santa at Mqabba	€4,550
	Teatru Salesjan	Theatre: The Fiction Machine	€3,002
Malta Digital Games Fund - Phase 1	2nd Place Ltd.	Witness (Working Title)	€10,000
	Mighty Box Ltd.	JARM (Just Another Recon Mission)	€10,000
KulturaTV	4 Sight Communications Ltd.	Tul il-Kosta Maltija	€16,000
	Media.Link Communications Co. Ltd.	Il-Festa	€33,600
	Reel 8 Productions Ltd.	Fejn Għexna	€29,040
	Reel 8 Productions Ltd.	Tentufiet	€32,460
	Smash Communications Ltd.	Widnet il-Malti	€20,400
	Take 2 Entertainment Ltd.	Il-Mirakli ta' #al Saflieni	€61,500
Kreattiv	Gozo College Boys Secondary	Building and Assembling 3D models	€5,000
	Gozo College Rabat Primary	The Going Up Book	€4,885.50
	Gozo College Secondary School	Stejjir...ir-ruħ ta' gżira	€4,254.90
	Guardian Angel Secondary Resource Centre	Interactive Ceramics	€3,500

	Kirkop Secondary School	A Silent Scream	€4,525.19
	Kulleġġ Maria Reġina - Mosta Zokrija Secondary School	Aqta' Fjura u ibni kamra - Espressjoni Artistika tal-Poeżija ta' Immanuel Mifsud	€5,000
	Maria Regina College - Learning Support Centre	Textiles Artwork	€2,262.69
	Saint Elias College - Secondary School	Student Short Film Project	€4,972
	San Andrea Senior School	Science Simplified	€5,000
	San Anton School - Primary School	Our first book of stories – book and audiobook	€4,420.82
	San Ġorġ Preca Boys Ħamrun - Secondary	Augmented Reality Game	€5,000
	San Miguel Primary School	Ĉaqraq Ĉekcika	€4,978.07
	St. Aloysius College - Secondary School	Augmented Reality Treasure Hunt	€4,922.40
	St. Ignatius College - Ħandaq Secondary School	Creative Alternate learning assessments for Secondary School education students	€2,050
	St. Ignatius College - Ħandaq Secondary School	Beyond the Visual Arts	€4,720
	St. Michael Foundation Secondary School	Walls & Bridges - A Printmaking Project	€3,650.75
	Youth.Inc	Ħrejjeġ Reali	€4,983
Cultural Partnership Agreement - Strand 1: Festivals	Film Grain Foundation	Valletta Film Festival	€150,000
<i>Amounts for the three years 2017-2019. In 2016 these beneficiaries received a 20% pre-financing allocation</i>	Għanja tal-Poplu	Għanja tal-Poplu	€120,000
	Għaqda Muzikali Beland	Beland Music Festival	€105,000
	Inizjamed	Mediterranean Literature Festival	€115,800
	Malta Fashion Association	Malta Fashion Week	€105,000*
	Malta Film Foundation	Malta Short Film Festival	€120,000

* In 2016, this beneficiary did not receive a 20% pre-financing payment; the 100% allocation for the year 2017 (EUR 35,000) will be issued later this year.

Cultural Partnership Agreement - Strand 2: Organisations			
Cultural Partnership Agreement - Strand 2: Organisations	BLITZ	BLITZ	€60,000
<i>Amounts are for the three years 2017-2019. In 2016 these beneficiaries received a 20% pre-financing allocation</i>	Kinemastik	Kinemastik	€60,000
	META Foundation	META Foundation	€60,000
	Opening Doors Association	Opening Doors Association	€60,000
	Teatru Salesjan	Teatru Salesjan	€60,000
Gozo Cultural Support Programme			
Gozo Cultural Support Programme	Gaulitanus Choir	Gaulitana Music Festival	€50,000
	Socjetà Filarmonika La Stella	Opera Production at Teatru Astra	€65,000
	Socjetà Filarmonika Leone	Opera Production at Teatru Aurora	€65,000
	Victoria International Arts Festival	Victoria International Arts Festival	€50,000
Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività			
Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività	Aġenzija Appoġġ	Il-Ħabib tiegħi Will	€5,000
	Down Syndrome Association Malta	Equality in Music	€5,774.20
	Film Grain Foundation	Tfal tal-Port	€6,000
	Karl Vella Foundation	Shaping Dreams Together	€8,000
	KOPIN (Koperazzjoni Internazzjonali - Malta)	Yeep! - Youth and Elderly explore Photography	€5,998.02
	Opening Doors Association	Drum-Line	€6,000
	Spero - A Training and Activity Centre for the Blind	Beyond Sight	€6,000
	St. Jeanne Antide Foundation	CREATE, LIBERATE, INTEGRATE	€6,000
	Youtheme Foundation	BENG - Boldly Exploring Navigating inGenuity	€6,620
	Youth Residence - Mount Carmel Hospital	Arani! Ismagħni! Ifhimni! - GĦINNI	€6,000
TOTAL			€2,183,297

Funding Programmes Evaluators' Selection Process

Evaluators for the various funding programmes are selected from a pool of independent evaluators made up of individuals who have submitted their application following the open call for evaluators published on the Arts Council Malta website.

They are appointed on the basis of the relevance of their skills to the funding programme that needs to be evaluated.

As part of our continuous effort for transparency and clarity, the names of the evaluators who have carried out evaluation duties during a specific year are published on our website at the end of that year.

Evaluators who were also beneficiaries of Arts Council Malta funds during that same year are excluded from participating in the evaluation sessions of the funding programmes from which they have benefitted.

Evaluators 2016

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Aquilina Carmen | 19. Castelletti Michelle | 37. Micallef Katya |
| 2. Attard Marouska | 20. Ciappara Josette | 38. Muscat Azzopardi Greta |
| 3. Axisa Antonella | 21. Cremona Rebecca | 39. Pace Alexandra |
| 4. Azzopardi Daniel | 22. Debattista Rosetta | 40. Pope David |
| 5. Azzopardi Simon | 23. Debono Sandro | 41. Pule Margerita |
| 6. Bell Albert | 24. Depares Ramona | 42. Serge David |
| 7. Bezzina Alex | 25. Dingli Chris | 43. Sciberras Teresa |
| 8. Blagojevic Vella Daniela | 26. Eomois Ingrid | 44. Scicluna Mark |
| 9. Borg Carmel | 27. Farrugia Lino | 45. Scicluna Zahra Moira |
| 10. Borg Maria Carmela | 28. Fenech Giuliana | 46. Shaw Brandon |
| 11. Buhagiar Sean | 29. Fenech Michael | 47. Spiteri Miggiani Giselle |
| 12. Butterworth Joanne | 30. Galea Malcolm | 48. Spiteri Renzo |
| 13. Calleja Charlene | 31. Gruppetta Chris | 49. Van der Hout Dimme |
| 14. Calleja Miriam | 32. Herrera Karl | 50. Vella Gregory Alex |
| 15. Callus André | 33. Hutschek Bettina | 51. Vella Mark |
| 16. Camilleri Austin | 34. Laenen Ann | 52. Vella Veronique |
| 17. Camilleri Rebecca | 35. Licari James | 53. Visanich Valerie |
| 18. Caruana Vincent | 36. Magro Jean Pierre | 54. Zahra Ruben |

ACM Brokerage and Training Services 2016

One of our guiding principles focuses on our support to the sector through the creation of a single service point which also provides consultation and information services.

Our brokerage services serve as our first point of contact through which artists, representatives of organisations and the general public are able to send queries, address difficulties, receive and give feedback, develop ideas, make contact with entities or other stakeholders. Additionally, our brokerage services take a more proactive approach in implementing Arts Council Malta's role as an active broker in the field by organising regular sessions and workshops to share information and good practices, debate cultural matters and facilitate networking between peers and other stakeholders.

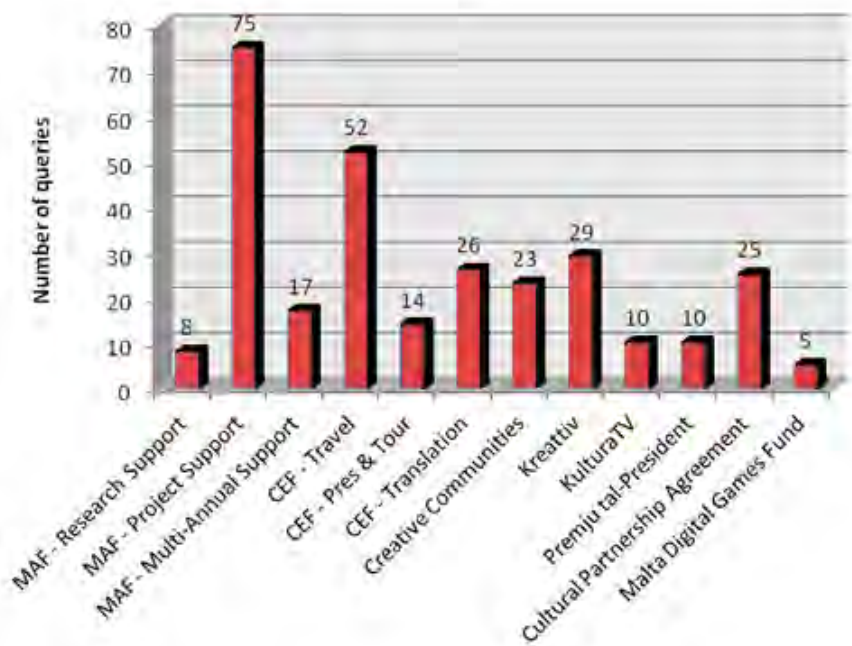
Total number of *major* queries addressed: **478**

Direct contact hours for brokerages services: **367 hours**

Equivalent to nine weeks of ongoing one-to-one communication with artists through emails, workshops, meetings and phone

Total attendees for external brokerage events: **676**

Number of queries received and addressed for specific funding programmes



Workshops

- Project Development Workshop - 12 January 2016
- KulturaTV Workshop - 2-3 May 2016
- Kreattiv Matchmaking session - 4 May 2016

Information sessions

- Malta Digital Games Fund - 13 June 2016
- Five regional meetings - May – July 2016
- Creative Communities - 19 September 2016
- Translation Grant - 30 September 2016

Brokerage sessions

- MCAST Institute for the Creative Arts – 26 January 2016
- UoM – Digital Arts Department – 29 February 2016
- Malta Youth Orchestra – 4 April 2016
- USPA day – University Students Performing Arts – 27 April 2016
- ESPLORA – 16 May 2016
- Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ – 10 October 2016
- Gozo – 25 October 2016

Training initiatives in 2016

- Scriptwriting Course (January to May 2016) – 18 students
- Cultural Partnership Agreement (23-25 September 2016) – 15 representatives of beneficiary organisations
- Gozo Cultural Participation Programme (23-25 September 2016) – 4 representatives of beneficiary organisations
- Premju Francis Ebejer (September 2015 to May 2016) – 2 authors of shortlisted scripts receiving year-long mentoring
- Critical Reviewing Course (5-7 December 2016) – 34 students attended the introductory course
9 established reviewers attended an informal discussion
72 persons attended the public debate
- Internationalisation Course (January 2016) – 27 participants
- Total Number of **People Active in Training 100.**



Reviewing the Arts: a Conversation between Critics and Artists, ACMLab series, December 2016.
Photo by Federico Peltretti

ACMLab Sessions 2016

The ACMLab series is Arts Council Malta's regular platform for information, networking and matchmaking sessions as well as discussions and regular meetings with the sector.

As part of the Council's commitment towards active brokerage in the cultural and creative sectors, ACMLab is the Council's platform to share information and good practices, debate cultural matters and facilitate networking between peers and other stakeholders. In conjunction with these sessions, a resource toolkit is being created to support creative professionals and organisations active in the cultural and creative industries. This is available from www.artscouncilmalta.org

ACMLab sessions in 2016 were held at Blitz in Valletta on the dates below:

- **Crowdfunding the arts** – 21 January 2016
- **Strategic planning for arts organisations** – 11 February 2016
- **Get sponsored** – 29 March 2016
- **Creative Projects in the Community: Ethical Considerations** – 26 May 2016
- **Freelancing in the Arts - a Tax Survival Guide** – 23 June 2016
- **Pitching Internationally** – 28 June 2016
- **Approaching the Media** – 28 July 2016
- **Setting up...for profit or not for profit** – 29 September 2016
- **Meet the Journalists** – 3 October 2016
- **Inspiring Young Audiences** – 17 November 2016
- **Reviewing the Arts: a Conversation between Critics and Artists** – 7 December 2016





ACM's Digital Presence in 2016

The ACM website hosted **71,971** sessions with **47,778** users
727 people were subscribed to the ACM newsletter
by the end of 2016; the newsletter started being issued in March
The ACM Facebook Page accumulated **4,950** Likes while
1,844 followed the ACM Twitter Page

Website:

- The average duration per session went up from 02:58 in the first quarter to 03:10 in the final quarter.
- Page views per session also went from 2.99 to 3.32 during the same period, meaning that user engagement increased throughout the year.

Newsletter:

- The number of subscribers rose steadily over the 10-month period from 690 in March to 727 in December. The monthly newsletter started being issued in March 2016.

Social Media Insights:

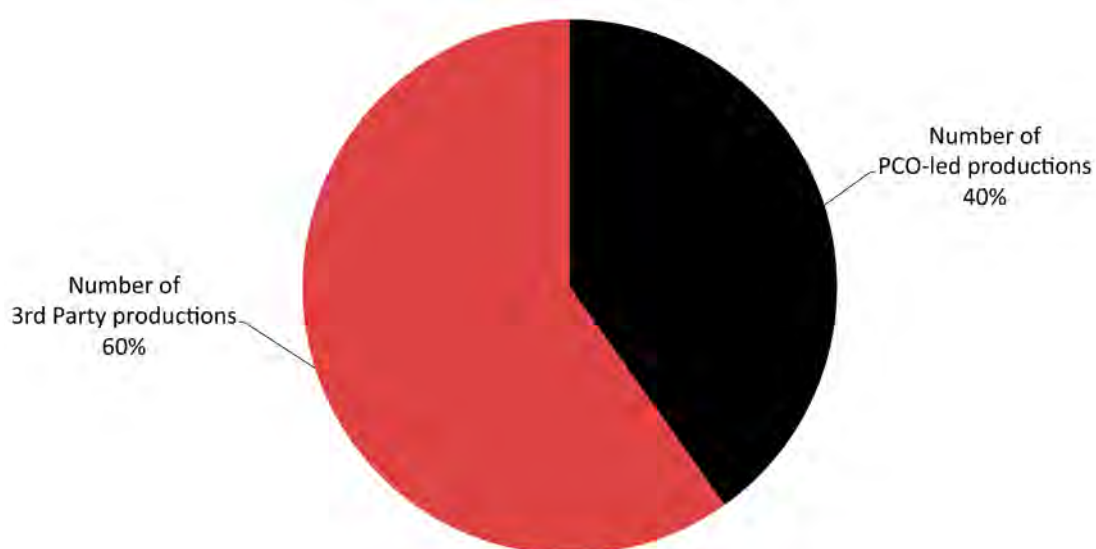
- Total likes in the final quarter stood at 4,950 - an increase of 1,242 over the beginning of the year.
- The average number of new likes per month amounted to 103.5.
- The total number of posts went up from 111 in the first quarter to 163 in the final quarter, totalling 525 posts over 12 months.
- The Twitter Page garnered 283 new followers over the 12-month period, with a total of 1,844 followers, 522 likes and 434 retweets.

Public Cultural Organisations Events in 2016

Activities and Audience Figures

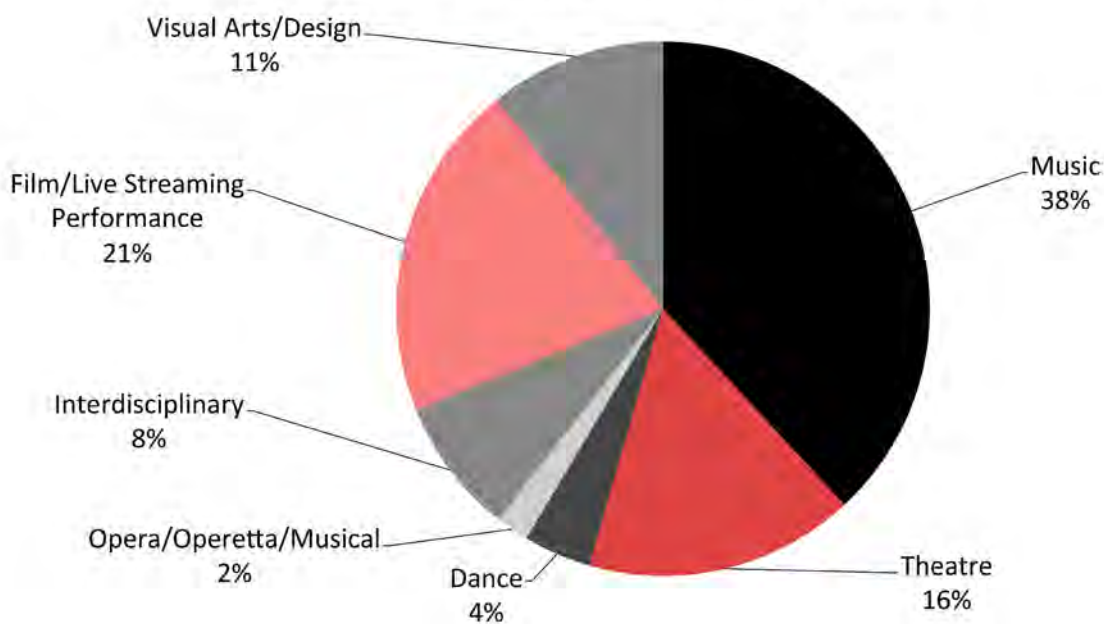
Activities Overview*	
Number of productions	391
Number of performances	624
Number of Exhibition Days	673
Number of Workshop/Talks Days	50
Number of Screening Days	184
Number of PCO-led productions	157
Number of 3rd Party productions	234

PCO Productions 2016



Activities by Art Form*		
	<i>Number of Productions</i>	<i>Number of Performances</i>
Music	149	212
Theatre	64	337
Dance	16	51
Opera/Operetta/Musical	8	19
Interdisciplinary	32	N/A
Film/Live Streaming Performance	80	N/A
Visual Arts/Design	42	N/A

Share of Productions by Art Form



Overall Attendance for ticketed events**

Number of Tickets sold/distributed	272,029
Maximum Capacity	453,460
Seat Utilisation Rate	60%

* Activities held at or by Teatru Manoel, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Fondazzjoni Kreattività, ŻfinMalta, Pjazza Teatru Rjal, the Mediterranean Conference Centre

** Excludes events by Pjazza Teatru Rjal and any third party events for which no ticket data was available



The 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture, October 2016
Photo credit: Stephanie Sant

The 7th World Summit on Arts and Culture

In October 2016 Arts Council Malta in collaboration with IFACCA welcomed over 400 delegates from 90 countries to the 7th World Summit on Arts & Culture in Malta held at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta. Speakers and delegates explored the theme *At the Crossroads? Cultural Leadership in the 21st Century* and addressed a number of critical issues, from the impact of multilateral trade negotiations on cultural policies, to how we can advocate for freedom of expression and cultural rights.

There were 65 speakers: seven from Africa, 14 from the Americas, nine from Asia, 27 from Europe, five from the Middle East and three from the Pacific. World Summit delegates agreed that by working together at regional and global levels, much could be achieved. Delegates were particularly inspired by keynote Arn Chorn-Pond (Cambodia) on the role of arts and culture in transforming lives and by the final session, moderated by Robert Palmer, on *Where to Next?*

The Summit's 12 Parallel sessions enabled delegates to drill down on the details of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. In an extraordinary set of circumstances, the Programme Director, Nina Obuljen, had to return to her home in Croatia during the Summit as she was called upon by the Prime Minister to take on the role of Minister of Culture. The final day of the Summit saw the official handover from Arts Council Malta to the National Department for Culture and Arts (JKKN) of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture in Malaysia, as the host of the 8th World Summit on Arts and Culture, to be held in 2019.

Festivals & Events

A black and white photograph capturing a large-scale event in a grand courtyard. In the foreground, a large, ornate fountain with a central tiered structure and a wide, scalloped basin sits on a checkered floor. The courtyard is filled with a dense crowd of people seated in rows of chairs, all facing towards a stage area in the background. On the stage, a woman in a long dress stands next to a man in a suit, with a grand piano positioned to the left. The architecture of the courtyard is classical, featuring high ceilings, arched windows, and stone walls. The lighting is dramatic, with spotlights illuminating the stage and the fountain.

The Poet Speaks: Gillian Zammit, Clifford Bechtel,
Rosetta de Battista, Auberge de Castille courtyard,
The Malta International Arts Festival.
Photo by Darrin Zammit Lupi

Festivals fall under their own distinct directorate, whose role is to focus on the management and development of the diverse festivals portfolio of the Council. With a brief which ranges from ensuring that festivals' development is built on solid ground to issues such as audience development and cultural participation, this directorate also aims to create a partnership with existing festivals, with a view towards eventually increasing the number of festivals in the calendar.

Malta's national festivals are highlights in the country's cultural calendar and are anticipated and enjoyed each year by thousands, both audience and participants. With their wide-ranging art forms, they serve to delight a broad span of cultural tastes.

The Festivals Directorate is responsible for seven annual festivals, the Summer Carnival and five national feasts as well as a number of Christmas activities. The Festivals Directorate also collaborates on other initiatives such as L-Imnarja, Jum Dun Karm and Remembrance Sunday.

Festivals & National Events 2016

- **The President's Christmas Concert**, 3 January 2016
- **Carnival: Valletta**, 5-9 February 2016
- **Freedom Day: Vittoriosa**, 31 March 2016
- **Sette Giugno: Valletta**, 7 June 2016
- **Għanafest: Argotti Gardens Floriana**, 10-12 June 2016
- **Mnarja: Buskett Gardens**, 28-29 June 2016
- **The Malta International Arts Festival: Valletta**, 10-17 July 2016
- **The Malta Jazz Festival: Ta' Liesse Valletta**, 21-23 July 2016
- **The Rock Festival: Ta' Liesse Valletta**, 29 July 2016
- **The Summer Carnival: Bugibba/M'Scala**, 19-20 August 2016
- **Il-Vitorja: Vittoriosa and Valletta**, 8 September 2016
- **Independence Day: Valletta**, 21 September 2016
- **Independence Day Concert: Valletta**, 21 September 2016
- **Notte Bianca: Valletta**, 1 October 2016
- **Jum Dun Karm: Żebbug**, 16 October 2016
- **The 7th World Summit on Arts & Culture: Valletta**, 18-21 October 2016
- **The Three Palaces: The Palace Valletta, San Anton, Teatru Manoel and Verdala**, 4-13 November 2016
- **Remembrance Sunday: Valletta & Floriana**, 13 November 2016
- **Republic Day: Valletta**, 13 December 2016
- **Cribs competition**, 16 December 2016 – 1 January 2017
- **Christmas activities**, 20 December 2016
- **Il-Kunċert tal-President għas-Sena l-Ġdida: Valletta**, 31 December 2016

Carnival

Celebrating history and tradition, in Malta, the roots of **Carnival** – which hails from a religious feast – can be traced back to the early 1400s. Behind the colourful masks and joyous celebrations, however, is the serious notion that, in an increasingly self-preoccupied world, Carnival remains a reminder that humour, colour and a disregard for rules can sometimes be a healthy antidote to the daily grind. In recent years, an effort has been made to bring Carnival back to its roots and traditions.

Location	February	Event
Pjazza Teatru Rjal	4	Official opening
St George's square & streets	5	Dancing competitions followed by défilé
St George's square	6	Children's Carnival
St George's square & streets	6	Défilé and dancing competitions
High Street, Hamrun	7	Carnival band parade
Streets of Valletta	7	Grand défilé
St George's square	7	Grand Carnival spectacle
Streets of Valletta & St George's square	8	Dancing schools Carnival parade followed by a dancing show
St George's square & streets of Valletta	8	Dancing competitions programme followed by the Grand défilé
Streets of Valletta & Pjazza Teatru Rjal	9	Dancing schools Carnival parade followed by a dancing show
St Anne's Street	9	Grand Finale

An estimated 40,000 people come into Valletta specifically for Carnival parades and 6,000 attended the ticketed event at St George's Square.

Freedom Day & The Sette Giugno

A Maltese national holiday celebrated annually on the 31st of March, **Freedom Day** (Jum il-Ħelsien) is the anniversary of the withdrawal of the British troops and the Royal Navy from Malta in 1979. The event is commemorated with a massed band display by the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) and the Police force and the laying of bouquets at the Freedom Day monument by H.E. The President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Event	Date	Details
Freedom Day	28/3	Massed band display by the AFM and Police force – St George’s square
Freedom Day	31/3	Laying of wreaths at the Freedom Day Monument by H.E. The President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition - Vittoriosa

The Sette Giugno - Every year, on the 7th of June, Malta commemorates the tragic events of 7 June 1919, known as the ‘Sette Giugno’. This is in remembrance of the riots of 1919, when the Maltese people revolted against the British administration and demanded some form of representative government for the island. Four people died on that fateful day. Organised by the National Festivities Committee, a commemorative ceremony is held in St George’s square Valletta, which includes a wreath-laying ceremony on the Sette Giugno monument.

Event	Date	Details
Sette Giugno	6/6	Hastings Gardens
Sette Giugno	7/6	The Addolorata Cemetery

Ghanafest - World Music Festival

Under the artistic direction of renowned percussionist Renzo Spiteri, the Ghanafest - World Music Festival was held at the Argotti Gardens on the 10th, 11th and 12th of June. This festival converged soundscapes and cultures that seem disparate but are closer than they might appear. Maltese traditional and more avantgarde art forms fitted in the scheme of things thanks to their history, affinity with the national image and the ever-changing pace of folk.

Sirventés, who opened the festival, are quintessential revivalists of the troubadour style and their delivery, mannerisms and eloquence in this regard is second to none. They have, over the years, managed to deliver a protest or satirical poem that describes very well the violence that France and Europe have passed through in past times, as well as reflecting on the fleeting nature of human feelings.

Estonia was the first Baltic state to be represented at Ghanafest thanks to Trad.Attack!, who draw their inspiration from old archive recordings of Estonian traditional songs and contemporary music. Folk music is their starting point, but their ears, mind and soul remain open to different styles and new directions, while maintaining their emotional roots.

Ezza from North Africa are a powerful trio that transform and bring the Tuareg music off the usual path, blending modern rock sounds, African pulse, rhythmic trances and relentless groove without any concessions. They impressed with their desert blues-rock, rebellion-fuelled rhythms and three-piece dynamic and soul-stirring melodies.

This year's Ghanafest also offered contemporary Maltese music revived and renewed with passion or intertwined with other forms of music. Cushion, an Indian fusion band based in Malta, presented a very interesting mid-tempo fusion of western and eastern chill-out music, mostly inclined towards the sound of India, with dominant sitar licks, eastern inclinations on vocal threads, backed with sublime ambience from the keys, and interesting bass and drum patterns to wrap it all up.

KażinSka and Mistura also featured in the festival. KażinSka is a band as well as an ongoing project embracing Maltese roots and world music. As the name suggests, their music focuses primarily on ska fused with traditional *banda* marches. Their *banda* marches melodies also include reggae, samba, jazz and R&B, with the end result being a joyous atmosphere synonymous with the *fešta Maltija* with a contemporary sound.

Mistura debuted at L-Għanja tal-Poplu in 2012, where they won the World Association of Festivals & Artists award for Best New Talent. They write and perform original songs exclusively in Maltese, with music that has elements of blues, rock and folk. The festival was attended by 2,895 people.

Programme Ghanafest 2016

Friday 12 June	Saturday 13 June	Sunday 14 June
6:30PM <i>Għana</i> Maltese folksong	6:30PM <i>Għana</i> Maltese folksong	6:30PM <i>Għana</i> Maltese folksong
7:30PM Cushion	7:30PM KažinSka	7:30PM Mistura
8:00PM Children's Programme	8:00PM Children's Programme	8:00PM Children's Programme
9:00PM <i>Għana</i> <i>Maltese folksong</i>	9:00PM <i>Għana</i> <i>Maltese folksong</i>	9:00PM <i>Għana</i> <i>Maltese folksong</i>
10:00PM Sirventés	10:00PM Trad.Attack!	10:00PM Ezza

The **Mnarja** is an open-air free agricultural event which celebrates old Maltese customs and traditions. The name for this very popular Maltese festival is believed to have been corrupted from the Italian word 'luminaria'. Held on the 28th and 29th of June, the origins of this festival date back to before the Knights of Malta; however, it is also strongly linked with the *fešta* of St Peter and St Paul.

Event	Date	Location
Mnarja	28-29 June	Buskett Gardens

The Malta International Arts Festival

The 11th edition of the Malta International Arts Festival (MIAF) saw the participation of renowned international and local artists presenting different art forms of exceptional quality. The artistic team worked together to create a varied programme, to appeal to many people interested in different genres, including music, dance, theatre, installations, film, literature, poetry, site-specific work and more. An important element of the festival is that while it brings to Malta quality performances from abroad, it also provides a platform for local artists. As part of this drive, the festival aims to give young artists the opportunity to present their work. A total of 8,000 people attended the Malta International Arts Festival.

Event	Date	Venue
<i>Sostanza d'Ombra</i> by Vertical Waves	8 July	Bibliotheca façade, Valletta
<i>Bandli</i>	8-17 July	St George's square, Valletta
<i>Rite of Spring</i>	9 July	Fort St Elmo, Valletta
<i>Caroline Calleja on Harp</i>	9 July	Fortress Builders, Valletta
<i>Young Performers Platform</i>	11 July	The Chamber of Commerce, Valletta
<i>Simon Schembri & Gilberto Pereyra</i>	11 July	Fort St Elmo, Valletta
<i>Young Performers Platform</i>	12 July	The Chamber of Commerce, Valletta
POW Ensemble	12 July	Fortress Builders, Valletta
<i>Tlieta (3)</i> by ŻfinMalta	12 July	Pjazza Teatru Rjal
<i>Young Performers Platform</i>	13 July	Chamber of Commerce, Valletta
<i>D.O.K.</i> by Moveo Dance Company	13 July	Fort St Elmo, Valletta
Arvo Pärt	14 July	St John's co-Cathedral, Valletta
<i>Life</i> by Ballet Boyz	15 July	Pjazza Teatru Rjal
<i>Life</i> by Ballet Boyz	16 July	Pjazza Teatru Rjal
<i>Please Continue (Hamlet)</i>	17 July	The Chamber of Commerce, Valletta
<i>Closing Concert</i> by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra	18 July	The Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta

The Malta Jazz Festival

One of the longest running and most highly-acclaimed festivals organised by Arts Council Malta, the Malta Jazz Festival was back with a new format under the artistic direction of Sandro Zerafa. The 26th edition of the festival created a vibrant jazz atmosphere all around Valletta.

The events of Thursday night were shifted from Ta' Liesse to the Valletta centre, with free concerts featuring headliners. The festival also strove to reach out to wider and younger audiences. The programme was highly eclectic and featured a diversity of styles.

The jazz world is constantly evolving. And so is the Malta Jazz Festival. With one foot in the past and another one in the future, the Festival keeps adjusting to contemporary trends while respecting tradition.

As in previous years, the festival also included some of the most significant bands/musicians in the music sector, such as Mike Stern/ Bill Evans band, Snarky Puppy and Omer Avital. 2,000 people attended the Malta Jazz Festival 2016.

Malta Jazz Festival 2016 Line-Up	Date
Oliver Degabriele Trio	Thursday 21 July
South Sound Experience	
Harold Lopez-Nussa Trio	
The Fringe Youth Jazz Ensemble	Friday 22 July
Marcus Roberts Trio	
Bill Evans Band Feat. Dean Brown, Dennis Chambers & Darryl Jones	
Dominic Galea – The UK Connection	Saturday 23 July
Omer Avital	
Snarky Puppy	

The Rock Festival & The Summer Carnival

A new event introduced during 2016, the Rock Festival featured the participation of Maltese and international rock bands. 1,128 people attended the festival.

Event	Date	Location
Rock Festival	29 July	Ta' Liesse, Valletta
Nomad Son		
Crux		
Uriah Heep		

The Summer Carnival is a two-day festival held along the streets of Bugibba and Qawra with the participation of various floats and dancers.

Event	Date	Location
Summer Carnival	19,20/8	Bugibba, Qawra
Summer Carnival	21/8	M'Scala

Il-Vitorja & Independence Day

The Great Siege of Malta in 1565 is an epic story of heroism, bloodshed and military strategy. The historic drama that commenced in May ended on 8 September and is commemorated on *il-Vitorja*.

Location	Date	Event
Great Siege Square, Valletta	5/9	Commemorative evening
Collegiate Basilica of Maria Bambina, Xagħra, Gozo	7/9	Pontifical mass

Independence Day is commemorated on 21 September, the day when the nation's independence was granted in 1964. According to the Constitution, Malta became a parliamentary democracy in the Commonwealth of Nations, the association of nations that formed part of the British Empire. This was celebrated with a Pontifical high mass at St John's co-Cathedral and the laying of wreaths at the Independence monument, Floriana.

Event	Date	Location
Independence Day pontifical high mass	21/9	St John's co-Cathedral
Independence Day concert	21/9	Pjazza Teatru Rjal

Notte Bianca

Notte Bianca, Malta's beloved night-long arts and culture festival, took over Valletta on Saturday the 1st of October. Organised by the Notte Bianca team and Arts Council Malta, this year's festival once again saw the capital's streets and cultural venues come alive thanks to a carefully designed programme of events offering a range of entertainment options and experiences. Entrance was free to all events with an approximate attendance of 60,000.

Event	Location
OPENING – <i>Tina 'Mast and In Guardia</i>	Castille Square
<i>Ġejja Dgħajsa</i>	Strait Street
<i>Planċier Diġitali</i>	Old Mint Street, corner with Old Theatre Street
<i>Shakespeare 400</i>	Teatru Manoel
<i>Karaoke ta' Vera</i>	Great Siege Square
<i>Saħħa Bowie Saħħa Prince</i>	Mediterranean Street
<i>Żiffa Żfin</i>	Various localities
<i>Sticks and Stones</i>	Castille Place
<i>Notte Bianca Villagġ</i>	Upper Barrakka Gardens
<i>Classic Lift</i>	Barrakka Lift
<i>Tritti Tratt</i>	Central Bank area
<i>Milonga Maltija</i>	The Mediterranean Conference Centre
<i>Science in the City</i>	The Palace Courtyard
<i>Pinta Teatru</i>	Roaming
<i>Maġija Infermerija</i>	The Mediterranean Conference Centre
<i>Crossroads</i>	Castille square

Notte Bianca

<i>Design4Dcity and Nonotak</i>	Pjazza d'Armi
<i>Sur Jazz</i>	Bridge Bar area
<i>Korijiet tal-Madalena</i>	Church of St Magdalene
<i>Kunċertun</i>	St George's Square
<i>Live fuq Facebook</i>	All around Valletta
<i>Xi Ksuħat</i>	De Valette square
<i>Best of Film Festival</i>	Pjazza Teatru Rjal
<i>Viżiv</i>	St James Cavalier
<i>L-Għanja tal-Poplu jiċcelebra</i>	Pjazza Teatru Rjal
<i>Tikka Banda</i>	All around Valletta
<i>Rinaxximent</i>	Pjazza Indipendenza
<i>Issuq sal-Belt</i>	St Sebastian Street
<i>Bieb il-Bombi</i>	Porte de Bombes
<i>Barrakka Medjevali</i>	Lower Barrakka Gardens
<i>Serata Kamrata</i>	Camarata buildings courtyard
<i>Metamorphosis</i>	Auberge d'Aragon
<i>Ħuġġieġa Hġieġ</i>	Republic square
<i>NotteBianca fit-Tlett Ibliet</i>	Senglea, Vittoriosa and Cospicua

Jum Dun Karm & Remembrance Sunday

Jum Dun Karm is a commemorative event celebrating Dun Karm Psaila, the country's national poet and the author of Malta's national anthem. Dun Karm hailed from Żebbuġ.

Event	Date	Details
Jum Dun Karm	16/10	Verdala Palace

On **Remembrance Sunday**, a mass was held at St John's co-Cathedral to commemorate Poppy Day, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony.

Event	Date	Details
Remembrance Sunday	13/11	St John's co-Cathedral, Valletta the War Memorial in Floriana

The Three Palaces Festival

A week-long festival with performances set in historically important and magnificent buildings, **The Three Palaces Festival** is fast becoming an important appointment in Malta's cultural calendar. The programme of events featured local and international artists of exceptional talent. One of the festival's aims is to promote the arts as a means of providing entertainment while presenting educational opportunities through concerts and community events. As part of the festival's outreach programme, participating artists also led master classes aimed at different audiences. Approximate attendance was 2,000 people.

Event	Date	Location
Sean Shibe	4/11	Presidential Palace, Valletta
Carmine Lauri	5/11	Presidential Palace, Valletta
Wallace Collection	6/11	Presidential Palace, Valletta
Karl Fiorini	8/11	Presidential Palace, Valletta
Ania Safonova	9/11	Presidential palace, Valletta
Dominic Galea	11/11	San Anton Palace
Ailyn Perez & Gery Matthewman	12/11	Manoel Theatre, Valletta
Nicola Said	13/11	Verdala Palace
Steven Isserlis	13/11	Manoel Theatre, Valletta

Republic Day, The Cribs Competition & Christmas Events

Republic Day

On the 13th of December 1974, the Maltese Constitution was amended and Malta became a republic, with Sir Anthony Mamo as its first President. Activities marking this historic date take place every year, mostly in Valletta. Republic Day is celebrated with a parade by the Armed Forces of Malta along Republic Street.

Event	Date	Location
Republic Day – band march	12/12	Valletta
Republic Day – band parade by the AFM	13/12	St George’s square
Republic Day – band march	13/12	Valletta

Cribs Competition and Christmas Events

Event	Date	Location
National Cribs Competition	16/12/2016 – 01/01/2017	Various locations
Christmas Activities	20/12	Various locations in Valletta



Life by Ballet Boyz, The Malta International Arts Festival.
Photo by Darrin Zammit Lupi





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