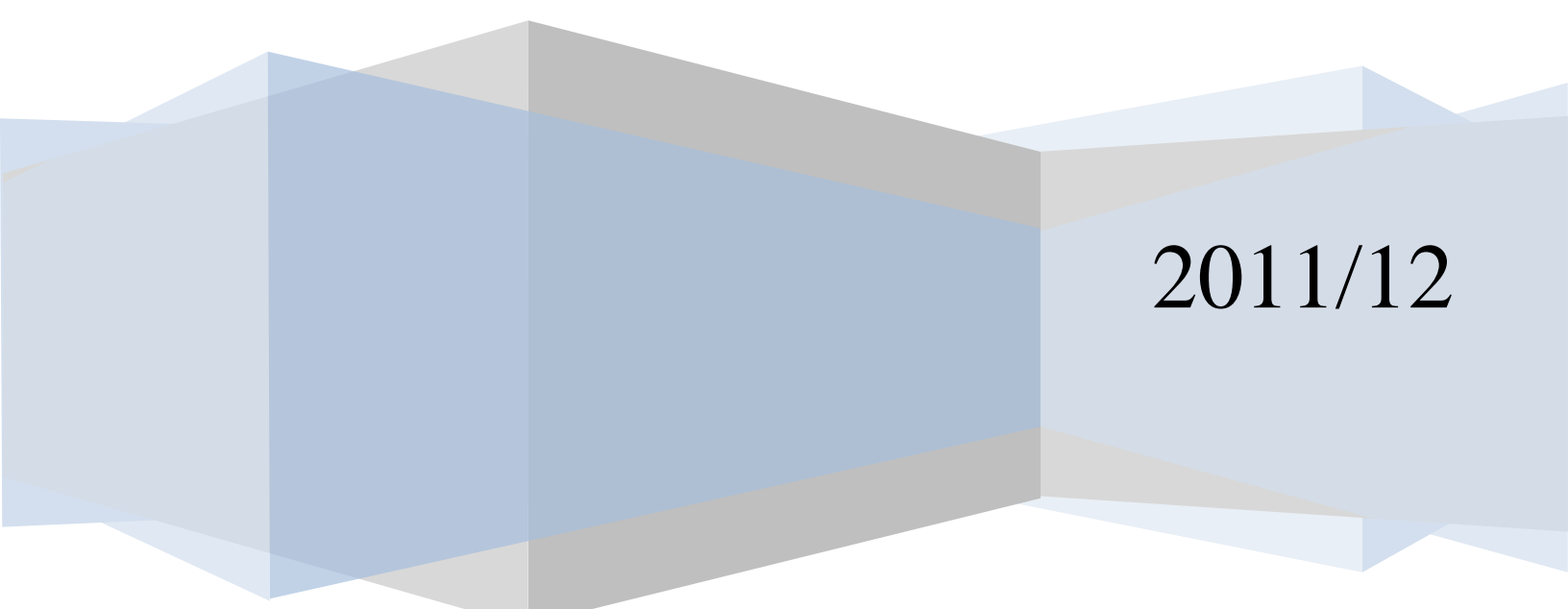


# **Islands and Small States Institute**

## **Annual Report**



2011/12

## 1. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTE

The Islands & Small States Institute offers a masters course on islands and small states studies and an undergraduate course in Lace Studies. The Institute also promotes research and training on economic, social, cultural, ecological and geographical aspects of islands and small states.

Based at the University of Malta, the institute evolved from the Islands and Small States Programme which had been set up in 1989 at the Foundation for International Studies, Valletta. In 1993, the Programme was restructured as an Institute with the principal aim of enabling the organisation to offer academic courses.

As from 2007, the institute has been housed in the Guze Cassar Pullicino Building at the Tal-Qroqq Campus.

### **Staff**

The Director of the Institute is Professor Lino Briguglio who offers his services to the Institute on a part-time basis. The Institute is administered by Ms Isabelle Pisani. The Institute uses the services of a Clerk (Ms Romina Carabott), a research officer (Dr Eman Calleja) and a project officer (Mrs Maryrose Vella who works on a part-time basis).



Prof Briguglio with Ms Carabott & Ms Pisani

### **Boards**

#### *The ISSI Board*

In 2000-2011, the ISSI Board chaired by Pro-rector Professor Alfred Vella, with the following members, Professor Lino Briguglio (Director), Professor Roderick Pace (appointed by Senate), Dr Gordon Cordina (scholar of repute), Dr Saviour Formosa (scholar of repute), Prof Kevin Aquilina. The student representatives were Mr Eman Mangion and Ms Bernardette Borg.

*The MA (ISSS) Board of Studies*

The MA (ISSS) Board of Studies chaired by Professor Lino Briguglio, with Prof Roderick Pace, Prof Kevin Aquilina, Dr Gordon Cordina as members and Mr Eman Mangion and Ms Bernardette Borg as student representatives.

*The Diploma in Lace Board of Studies*

The Diploma in Lace Board of Studies chaired by Professor Lino Briguglio, with Ms Consiglia Azzopardi, Mr Joseph Schirò, Ms Jill Camilleri, Mr Joseph Vancell as members and Ms Karen Zammit Manduca and Ms Marian Buttigieg as student representative.

*The ISSI Doctoral Committee*

The ISSI Doctoral Committee is chaired by Professor Lino Briguglio, with Dr Marguerite Camilleri, Dr Gordon Cordina and Professor Roderick Pace as members.

## **Community Outreach**

*The Institute Website*

The Institute's website contains reference to almost all the work that the Institute engaged over the years. Sections in the website include:

- The Homepage provides an introduction to the Institute, the latest news, direct links to the study programmes (Courses) offered by the Institute and previous annual reports;
- A Research page where interested researchers can view material related to the Islands and Small States including a list of Occasional papers that can be downloaded;
- A Publications page which lists interesting and relevant links to websites;
- A page dedicated to Sustainable Development including the consultation process towards the Sustainable Development process in Malta;
- A Forthcoming Activities page providing information on the various events including public lecturers and conferences that will be held by the Institute;
- A Diploma in Gozo Studies where future students can have a general idea of what the course entails.
- A Diploma in Lace page where students can download the Guidelines for the preparation of long essay, view timetables and past papers;

- A Student Affairs page where MA ISSS students can download the Guidelines for the Preparation of Research Proposals, view timetables and past papers;
- A Past Events page providing information on the various events organised by the Institute since 2002;
- A Staff page containing the contact details of the staff working at the Institute and a list of collaborating scholars;

## 2. THE MASTER OF ARTS IN ISLANDS AND SMALL STATES STUDIES

The Course leading to the Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies is spread over two years of part-time study. Lecture sessions are normally held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Tal-Qroqq Campus and on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings at the Gozo Campus. The degree provides a cross-disciplinary perspective on various aspects associated with islands and small states, and allows for a specialist study in one particular area through a thesis. The students are also expected to write a dissertation, under supervision, on a theme of relevance to the islands and small states.

### Course Content

The course consists of Environmental Studies, as the major area (40 ECTS credits), Economics as the minor area (20 ECTS credits), and the writing of a dissertation (30 ECTS credits). Topics covered include “Overview of Environmental Concerns for Islands and Small States”, “International Environmental Law and Environmental Diplomacy”, “Principles of Ecology and Biogeography of Islands”, “Environmental Planning and Management”, “Aspects of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics with Special Focus on Size and Insularity Factors” and “Research Methodology”.

### Fieldwork

As part of their studies students have to carry out regular fieldworks. In the latest visit during the academic year 2011-2012 students visited the Qawra/Dwejra area. This visit enabled students to obtain practical knowledge relating to the subject they cover in the lecture sessions of Ecology and Biogeography of Islands. Following this visit, students were asked to produce a detailed report on the geographic distribution of plants and animals and the relationships of living things to one another and to their environment in the Western coast of Gozo.



Students attending the fieldwork of Prof P.J. Schembri

## Dissertations Titles

Dissertations submitted this year include “The Geography of Health with Special reference to Small Island States” by Patrick Bonnici, “Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Biodiversity in Small Island States” by Duncan Borg, “Investigating the Socio-Economic Impact of Jellyfish Outbreaks in Small Island States” by Mariella Ciantar, “Ensuring Food Security on Small Island States in the Context of Climate Change Scenario” by Frank Caruana Catania, “Small Country Participation in the EU Research Programmes: Opportunities, Constraints and Success Stories” by Anthea Fabri, “Tourism Impact on Water Consumption in Mediterranean Islands with Special Reference to Malta” by Eman Mangion, “The Labour Market Participation of Women in Small European Union Member States” by Lily Said, “Small Island States and Invasive Alien Species” by Giuda Taddeo Cilia and “A Comparative Study of Afforestation Strategies in Mediterranean Islands” by David Attard.



Dissertations submitted by the MA ISSS students in 2012

MA dissertations submitted in connection with the MA ISSS course were examined by an examination panel which included the external examiner Prof Satish Chand from the University of New South Wales.

## Students

Three students have enrolled to follow the MA ISSS for the academic year 2012/2013 in Malta. In all, since the year 2000, a total of 81 students have obtained the MA (ISSS) degree.

This year we also had a PhD student, Ms Carmen Saliba complete her doctoral studies on “The Role of Monetary Policy in the Economic Recovery Following the 2008-2009 Global Financial Crisis with Special Reference to Small States”.



MA ISSS students and a PhD student graduating on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at the Jesuit's Church Valletta.

### 3. DIPLOMA IN LACE STUDIES

The Course leading to the Diploma in Lace Studies is spread over two years of part-time study. Lecture sessions are normally held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Tal-Qroqq Campus.

#### Course Content

The course consists of 60 ECTS credits. Topics covered include ISS 2801 Needle Lace in Small Islands of Europe II, ISS 2803 Lace Textile in Costumes and Vestments II, ISS 2807 Introduction to Management for Small Business, ISS 2802 History of Lace II, ISS 2808 Introduction to Accounts for Small Business and ISS 2804 Advanced Lace Design.



Undergraduate Diploma in Lace Studies students graduating on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at Sir Temi Zammit Hall. Fifth from left Ms Consiglia Azzopardi (lecturer) and Prof Lino Briguglio (Head)

#### Students

During their studies students acquired extensive knowledge about lace and a guide of how to enhance a business in this sector.

### 4. CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta organised a training workshops in 2012, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta, as part of the Malta-Commonwealth Third Country Training Programme. The theme of the workshop was “Banking and Finance in Small States”.

#### Banking and Finance in Small States

The workshop held at the Cavallieri Hotel on 16 – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012, and consisted of 27 presentations by resource persons on different aspects of the main theme, and country presentations by the participants. The Programme also included visits to the Malta Financial Services Authority, the Central Bank and the Bank of Valletta.

A total of 15 participants, hailing from different parts of the world, attended the workshop.



## 7. OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Public Seminar: Climate Change: Impacts and Evidence

The Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta, in collaboration with the Faculty of Science, organised a public seminar followed by a discussion on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011. The theme of the seminar was "Climate Change: Impacts and Evidence".

The guest speaker was Professor Peter Mills, Vice Principal of Harper Adams University College, UK who is a well-known expert on the impacts of climate change on agriculture. Three other speakers from the University of Malta delivered short presentations related to climate change impacts and evidence. Dr. Eman Calleja from the ISSI, assessed the impacts of climate change on European islands. Dr. Noel Aquilina, from the Physics Department spoke about Climate Research tools of analysis whilst Dr. Alan Deidun, from the Physical Oceanography Unit, presented an overview of existing evidence of climate change from the marine perspective. Dr. Charles Galdies, from the Institute of Earth Systems, spoke about the climate change of the Maltese Islands over the last 60 years. The sessions were chaired by the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Charles Sammut.



Speakers at the public seminar on Climate Change: Left Prof Charles Sammut, Dr Noel Aquilina, Dr Charles Galdies, Prof Peter Mills, Prof Lino Briguglio, Dr Eman Calleja and Dr

### Occasional papers

The Institute publishes a series of six occasional papers every year (ISSN 10246282) on themes of relevance to islands and small states. The list of paper titles is available at <http://www.um.edu.mt/islands/publications>.

### Forthcoming International Training Workshop

The Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta will be organising a training workshops in 2013, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta, as part of the Malta-Commonwealth Third Country Training Programme. The workshops will be focused on "Competitiveness Strategies for

Small States”, and will be funded by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Malta Cooperation Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The workshop held between the 10 – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013, will consist mainly of presentations by resource persons on different aspects of the main theme, and country presentations by the participants. These will all be followed by discussion. The Programme will also include visits to relevant institutions in Malta

The workshops are primarily intended for officials, at senior and middle management levels, operating in the public sectors of small states. Participants should normally be nominated by the national governments and sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. A limited number of self-funded participants can also participate.