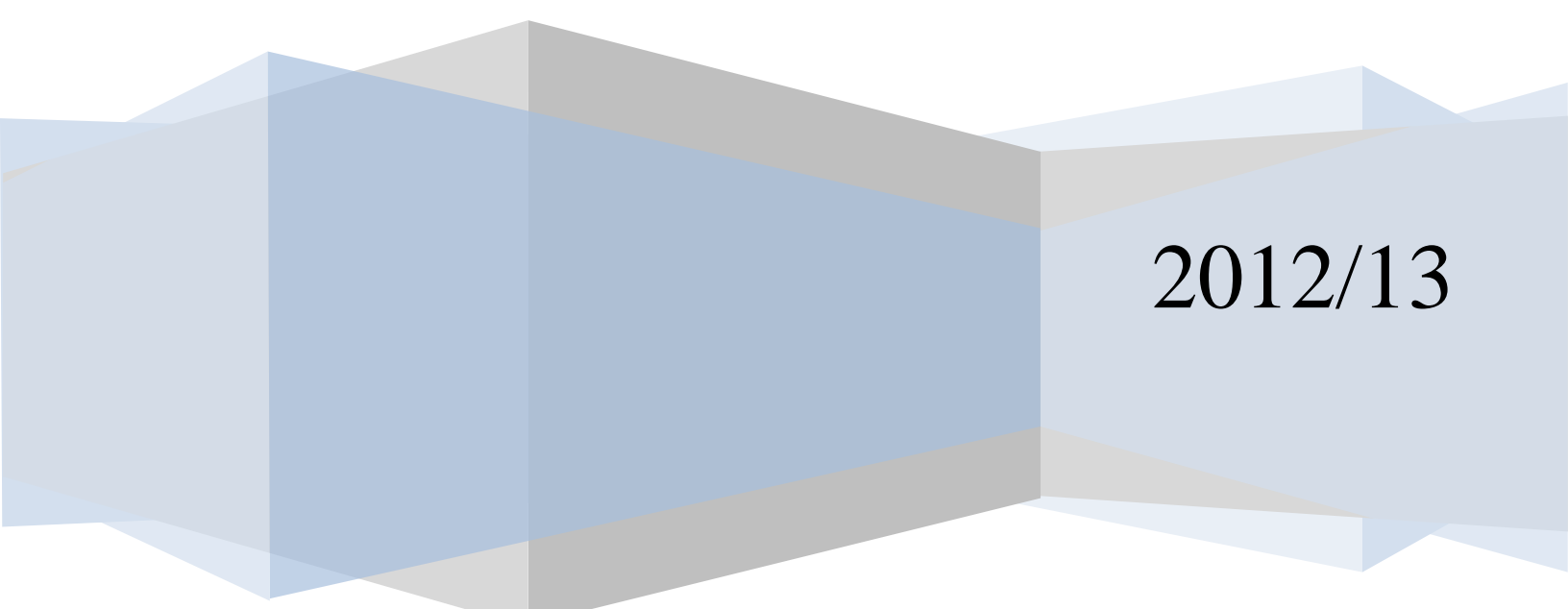


# **Islands and Small States Institute**

## **Annual Report**



2012/13

## 1. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTE

The Islands and Small States Institute is one of the seventeen Institutes of the University of Malta. It offers a masters course on islands and small states studies, and organises various other activities including international meetings and public lectures. It also publishes a series of publications entitled “Occasional papers on Islands and Small States.” The Institute also promotes research and training on economic, social, cultural, ecological and geographical aspects of islands and small states.

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 and assisted by Ms Romina Carabott. The Institute utilises the services of Mrs Maryrose Vella, who works on a part-time basis as Projects Officer.

### **Boards**

#### *The ISSI Board*

In 2012-2013, the ISSI Board was 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) and Prof Kevin Aquilina (appointed by Council). The student representative was Ms Bernardette Borg.

#### *The MA (ISSS) Board of Studies*

The MA (ISSS) Board of Studies was chaired by Professor Lino Briguglio, with Prof Roderick Pace, Prof Kevin Aquilina, Dr Gordon Cordina, Ms Stephanie Vella as members and Ms Bernardette Borg 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 information on the work that the Institute carries out. It is structured as follows:

- The Homepage provides an introduction to the Institute, the latest news, direct links to the study programmes 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 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 2012- 2013 students visited the Rabat area in Gozo so as to obtain practical knowledge relating to environmental planning and management. Following this visit, students were asked to produce a detailed report on the geographic distribution of infrastructures and possible solutions to ameliorate the residential areas.

## Dissertations Titles

The dissertations submitted in 2013 in partial fulfilment of the MA(ISSS) degree were:

- “An Analysis of the Special Impacts of Climate Change on Two Small Mediterranean Islands, Malta and Cyprus.” Author: Bernarette Borg
- “Heating and Cooling Usage in EU Households with a Special Reference to Malta and Cyprus.” Author: Aaron Grech
- “EU Regional Funding to Island Regions and its Effects in Mitigating the Geographical Disadvantages of these Regions.” Author: Charlton Refalo.
- “The Dependence on Tourism of the Small States of Europe.” Author: Emma Zammit

MA dissertations submitted in connection with the MA ISSS course were examined by an examination panel which included the non-visiting external examiner Prof Robert Allan Read from the University of Lancaster, UKs.

In all, since the year 2000, a total of 85 students have obtained the MA (ISSS) degree.



MA ISSS students graduating on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013 at the Jesuit's Church Valletta together with Prof Lino Briguglio.

## Students

Eight students have enrolled to follow the MA ISSS for the academic year 2013/1014.

This year four students have graduated in MA ISSS and one student has obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Islands and Small States Studies.

### 3. CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

#### Competitive Strategies for Small States

The Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta organised 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 theme of the workshop was “Competitive Strategies for Small States 2013”.

The workshop was held at the Cavallieri Hotel on 10 – 15<sup>th</sup> June, and consisted of 21 presentations by resource persons on different aspects of the main theme, and country presentations by the participants.

A total of 9 participants, hailing from different parts of the world, attended the workshop.



Participants at the Commonwealth Workshop on Competitiveness Strategies.

#### Commonwealth Technical Working Group on Resilience Building in Small States

A two day Commonwealth Secretariat Technical Working Group Workshop on “Resilience Building in Small States” funded by the Commonwealth Secretariat was held at the Radisson Blue Hotel on the 18th and 19th June. The workshop consisted of discussion sessions, focusing on economic, social, governance and environmental aspects of resilience building with special reference to the small states in the Caribbean, AIMS, and Pacific regions. In addition, there were two sessions dedicated to the link between resilience and policy action and the way forward in order to further develop the resilience framework. Additional details can be viewed at <http://www.um.edu.mt/islands/pastevents>.



Participants and resource persons at the TWG workshop in June 2013

### **International Summer School on Island Tourism**

The institute was involved in the organisation of an international summer school on tourism management in small islands, in collaboration with Observatory on Tourism in the European Islands (OTIE). The summer school was held in Gozo between 28<sup>th</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> August. Further information is available at: <http://www.otiesummerschool.com/program.html>



Participants at the International Summer School on Island Tourism

## 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Reconciling Work and Family Responsibilities

This Public Seminar, held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012, was delivered by the guest speaker Dr Catherine Hein. Dr Hein is a sociologist who was Head of the Work and Family Unit of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). She is the author of various ILO publications on international experience in reconciling work and family. Two other speakers from the University of Malta also delivered presentations related to the role of women in the labour force.

Prof Lino Briguglio, lecturer in labour Economics at the University of Malta, discussed the factors affecting labour force participation of women in Malta. Ms Anna Borg, a lecturer at the Centre for Labour Studies, spoke about the price of motherhood. The session was chaired by Mr Saviour Rizzo, and the presentations were followed by a discussion.



Left to right: Ms Anna Borg, Prof Lino Briguglio, Dr Philippe Hein, Mr Saviour Rizzo, Ms Isabelle Pisani and Dr Catherine Hein at the public lecture on “Reconciling Work and Family Responsibilities”.

### The Economic Performance of Small States

The Institute held a public seminar followed by a discussion on theme “The Economic Performance of Small States.” The lecture was held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at Tal-Qroqq Campus, University of Malta.

The guest speaker was Dr Philippe Hein, member and Rapporteur of the United Nations Committee on Development Policy. He spoke on “Small countries among the least developed countries and their graduation”. Two other speakers from the University of Malta also delivered a presentation. Prof Lino Briguglio, Director of the Islands and

Small States Institute, explained why small vulnerable states often perform well economically and Prof Roderick Pace, Director of the Institute for European Studies spoke about the small states members of the EU. The seminar was chaired by Mr Stefano Moncada and had a good attendance.



Left to right: Prof Lino Briguglio, Dr Philippe Hein, Mr Stefano Moncada and Prof Roderick Pace, addressing the public lecture on “The Economic Performance of Small States”

### **The Small States of the European Union: Political and Economic Aspects**

As part of the Discover University events, the Institute organised a public seminar on "The Small States of the European Union: Political and Economic Aspects ". The event took place on Friday 9 November at 1300hrs - 1400hrs in the Pavilion, Atriju Vassalli.

The speakers were Dr Simon Busuttil and Professor Edward Scicluna. Dr Simon Busuttil has since 2004 served as a Member of the European Parliament. A lawyer by profession, he specialised in European Affairs and followed EU affairs since 1994. Prof Edward Scicluna was also a member of the European Parliament. He was appointed as a Euro expert by the EU Commission. The discussion was chaired by the Director of the Islands and Small States Institute, Professor Lino Briguglio. Following the 20-minute presentation by the two speakers, the discussion was opened to the floor.

The discussion focused on the small states of the EU, namely Malta, Cyprus, Estonia, Slovenia and Luxembourg with special reference to institutional, political and economic aspects. The themes discussed included the voting power of these states in the EU decision-making process, the problems faced by these small states when having the presidency of the EU, their economic structures and the special economic constraints they face due to their small size, when compared to larger member states.





From left to right: Prof Edward Scicluna, Prof Lino Briguglio and Dr Simon Busuttill, addressing the gathering during the seminar on “The Small States of the European Union”.

### **Financial System Development in Small Island Economies: The Case of Mauritius**

The Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta, organised a public seminar followed by a discussion on the above theme. The lecture was held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 at Tal-Qroqq Campus, University of Malta.

The guest speaker was Prof Kheswar Jankee, Professor of Economics and Statistics from the University of Mauritius spoke on the “Financial crisis and financial systems in small island states : The case of Mauritius”. The seminar was chaired by Dr Cordina.



Prof Kheswar Jankee (left) who was the main speaker and Dr Gordon Cordina who chaired the meeting at the public lecture on “Financial System Development in Small Island Economies: The Case of Mauritius”

### **Occasional papers**

The Institute annually publishes a series of six occasional papers (ISSN 1024-6282) on themes of relevance to islands and small states. The list of paper titles is available at <http://www.um.edu.mt/islands/publications>.