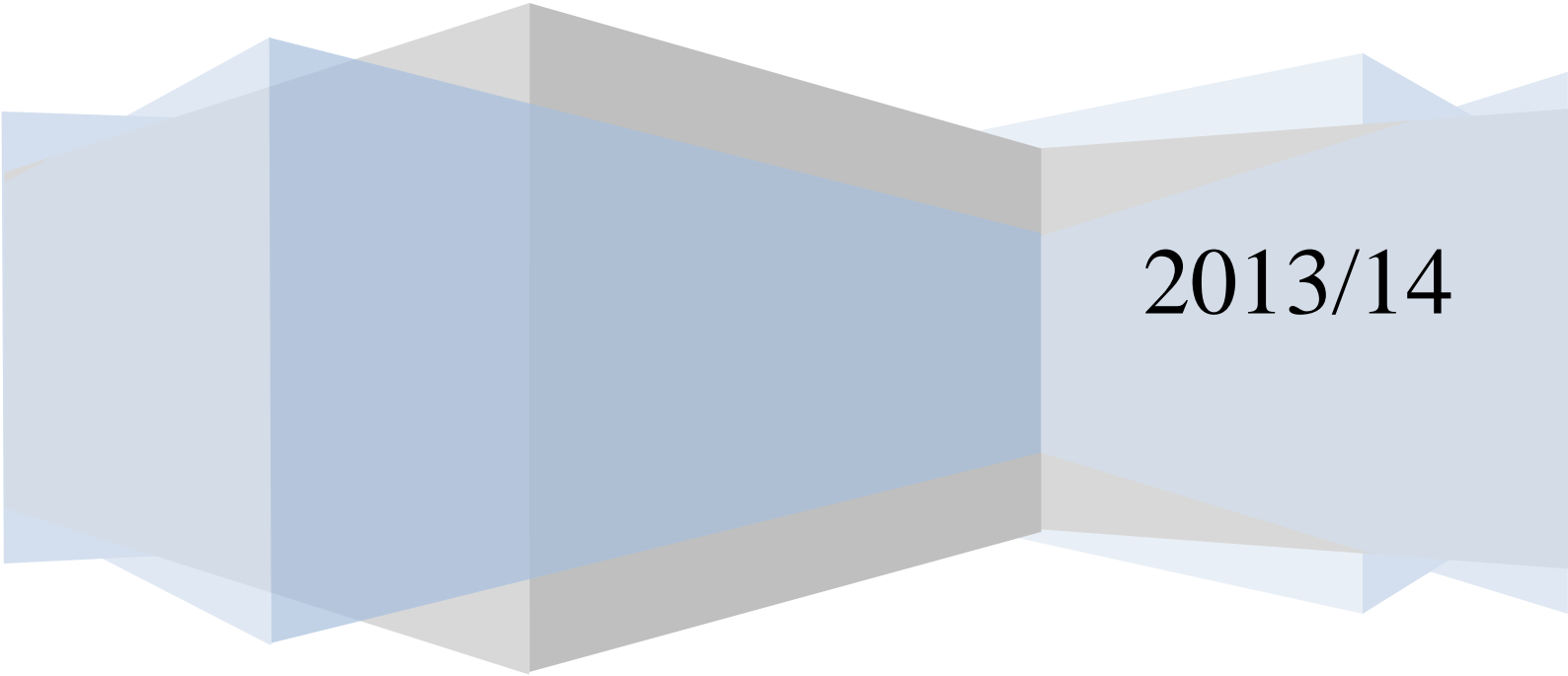


# Islands and Small States Institute

## Annual Report



2013/14

## 1. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTE

The Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta offers Masters and undergraduate courses 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 2013-2014, the ISSI Board was chaired by Pro-rector Professor Alfred Vella, with the following members, Professor Lino Briguglio (Director), Professor Roderick Pace (Senate appointed), Prof Kevin Aquilina (Council Appointed), Dr Saviour Formosa (Academic staff), Mr Stefano Moncada (Senate Appointed) and Prof Godfrey Baldacchino (Senate Appointed). The student representative was Mr Marc Henry Schembri.



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

The MA (ISSS) Board of Studies was chaired by Professor Lino Briguglio, with Professor Roderick Pace, Dr Saviour Formosa, Mr Stefano Moncada and Mr Marc Henry Schembri (student representative) as members.

### *The ISSI Doctoral Committee*

The ISSI Doctoral Committee is chaired by Professor Lino Briguglio, with Dr Saviour Formosa and Professor Roderick Pace as members.

## **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 2014- 2015 students visited the Santa Klara College, Pembroke to obtain practical knowledge relating to energy saving equipment used in the daily running of the school. These included a wind turbine, photovoltaic system and Solar water heaters. Following this visit, students also visited the WasteServe Malta Limited at Marsascala. After both visits students were asked to deliver a presentation on the efficiency of the equipment and what measures can be taken to improve.



Students carrying out their fieldwork at Pembroke

## 3. OTHER ACTIVITIES

### 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 2014. The course covered economic, social and environmental aspects of events associated with tourism including food festivals, religious events, sports events and cultural activities. These events have become important activities in tourism promotion as they provide a new demand for goods and services which attract

tourists. Further information is available at:  
<http://www.otiesummerschool.com/program.html>



Participants at the International Summer School on Island Tourism

### **Seminar: Cold Water Tourism and Winter Tourism in Small Islands - The Cases of Faroe and the Maltese Islands**

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014, the Institute organised a public seminar followed by a discussion. The theme of the seminar was "Cold Water Tourism and Winter Tourism in Small Islands: The Cases of Faroe and the Maltese Islands".



From left to right: Ms Marie Avellino, Prof Gestur Hovgaard and Prof Lino Briguglio addressing the gathering during the seminar on "Cold Water Tourism and Winter Tourism in Small Islands: The Cases of Faroe and the Maltese Islands".

The seminar was addressed by two speakers. Professor Gestur Hovgaard from the Department of Social Sciences at the University of the Faroe Islands spoke about cold water tourism. Ms Marie Avellino, Assistant lecturer at the Institute of Tourism, Travel and Culture at the University of Malta spoke about Seniors and Winter Tourism in Malta.

In 2014 a UN global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing states, and the Institute, through its director Prof Lino Briguglio, participated in the following conferences in connection with this global conference:

- High-Level Conference on Pacific Island Countries Lifting Potential Growth in the Pacific Islands. Professor Briguglio was invited to act as keynote speaker on the theme of economic development in the Pacific Island Countries.  
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/seminars/eng/2013/pic/>
- Third Global Biennial Conference on Small States (St Lucia, March 2014). Prof Briguglio was invited to act as keynote speaker during a conference for Commonwealth Ministers and Ambassadors representing small states on the theme “The Vulnerability/ Resilience with Reference to Small States”.
- SIDS seminar and High level Round Table held at UNCTAD (Geneva, June 2014). Prof. Briguglio was invited to act as keynote speaker on the theme “Small Island States in a Global Setting”
- United Nations High Level Political Forum (New York, July 2014). Prof. Briguglio addressed ambassadors and other country representatives, as well as UN officials on the “Vulnerability/Resilience Framework, with reference to Small Island Developing States”.



The Institute participated actively in a series of meetings on the Economic Resilience of Small States organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat. This led to the publication of a book entitled @Building the Resilience of Small States – A Revised Framework@ which was officially launched during the UN International Meeting on Small Island States held in Samoa in September 2014.

- The UN International Meeting on Small Island States held in Samoa (Apia, September 2014). Prof. Briguglio was asked to address an event on behalf of the World Bank on the theme “The Resilience Competitiveness Nexus with a Focus on Small Island Developing States”. During this conference, the Commonwealth Secretariat launched the publication of a book on “Building the Economic Resilience of Small States” in the contents of which the Institute had a leading role.



The Poster used for the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in September 2014.

## **Publications**

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>.