A scenic view of a beach with a clear blue sky, turquoise water, and a sailboat in the distance. The beach is sandy and has some palm trees on the left. The water is calm and blue. A sailboat is visible on the right side of the image. The sky is a deep blue with a few white clouds.

ISLANDS AND SMALL STATES INSTITUTE

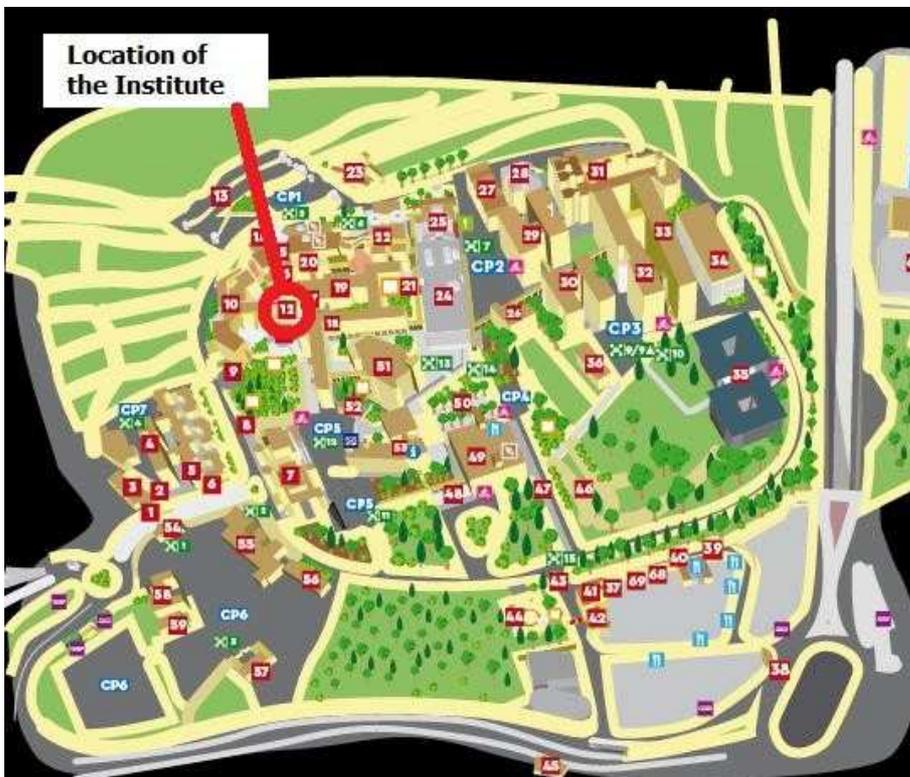
at the University of Malta

Annual Report
Academic year 2017/2018

REMIT AND LOCATION OF THE INSTITUTE

The Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta offers under-graduate and post-graduate courses on islands and small states studies, and organises various other activities including international meetings and public lectures. The Institute promotes research and training on economic, social, cultural, ecological and geographical aspects of islands and small states, and publishes the *Small States and Territories Journal*, as well as a series of studies entitled *Occasional papers on 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.



The location of the Islands and Small States Institute in Guze Cassar Pullicino Building, at the Msida Campus.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTE

Chair the Institute

The Chairperson of the Institute is Professor Godfrey Baldacchino, Pro-Rector for International Development and Quality Assurance.



Professor Godfrey Baldacchino, Chairperson of the Islands and Small States Institute.

Director of the Institute

The Director of the Institute is Professor Lino Briguglio who is a member of the Economics Department of the University of Malta and offers his services to the Institute on a part-time basis.



Professor Lino Briguglio, Director of the Islands and Small States Institute

Staff

The Institute was administered by Ms Romina Carabott (Clerk) while Dr Noemi Tari-Keresztes joined as a Research Support Officer at the Institute in March 2018.



Ms. Romina Carabott (left) and Dr Noemi Tari-Keresztes

Boards

The ISSI Board

During the academic year 2017/18, the ISSI Board was chaired by Prof Godfrey Baldacchino

The other members of the Board were:

Prof. Lino Briguglio (Director)
Perit Raphael Axiak
Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat
Prof. Saviour Formosa.
Dr Stefano Moncada
Prof. Roderick Pace
Dr Mario. T. Vassallo,
Dr Ing. Charles Yousif,



Board meeting of the Islands and Small States Institute held on 15 May 2018, with Prof Godfrey Baldacchino (centre) chairing.

The ISSI Doctoral Committee

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

THE INSTITUTE'S WEBSITE

The Institutes website (www.um.edu.mt/ISSI) is structured as follows:

- The Homepage provides an introduction to the Institute
- Collaborating Scholars
- Small States & Territories Journal – The journal of the ISSI
- PhD programme
- Information about the MA (Islands and Small States Studies) taught course
- Information about the MA (research on Islands and Small States)
- Information about the Diploma in Lace Studies
- Publications pages which list the Occasional Papers and other publications relevant to islands and small states
- Research pages where interested researchers can view material related to the Islands and Small States including a list of dissertation titles that can be downloaded;
- Health Research Group (HRG) pages
- Climate Change Platform (CCP) pages
- Past events & Initiatives pages providing information on the various events organised by the Institute.



RESEARCH PLATFORMS WITHIN THE ISSI

Climate Change Platform (CCP)

The CCP is a collaborative project between different University entities and hosted by the Islands and Small States Institute. Its main objectives are (a) to facilitate collaboration between UoM entities and individual UoM academics interested in climate change issues and (b) to promote research and teaching initiatives relating to climate change.

Steering Committee of the CCP:

Prof. Simone Borg	Environmental & Resources Law
Prof. Maria Attard	Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development
Dr. Stefano Moncada	Institute for European Studies
Prof. Lino Briguglio	Islands and Small States Institute
Dr. Charles Galdies	Institute of Earth Systems
Prof. Paul J Pace	Centre for Environmental Education & Research
Dr. Ing Charles Yousif	Institute for Sustainable Energy

Further information about the CCP is available at:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/islands/climate>

Island Tourism Platform (ITP)

The ITP's is a collaborative project between the Islands and Small States Institute and the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture. Its main objectives are (a) to facilitate collaboration between UoM entities and individual UoM academics interested in island tourism issues and (b) to promote research and teaching initiatives relating to island tourism at the University of Malta and elsewhere.

The Steering Committee of the ITP:

Dr. Marie Avellino	Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture(Chairperson)
Prof. Lino Briguglio	Islands and Small States Institute (Vice-chair)
Prof. Carmel Cassar	Institute for Tourism, Travel. and Culture
Prof. Andrew Jones	Institute for Tourism, Travel, and Culture
Dr Marie-Louise	Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy
Mr Julian Zarb	Institute for Tourism, Travel, and Culture

Further information about the ITP is available at:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/islands/islandtourismplatform>

SMALL STATES HEALTH PLATFORM (SSHP)

The Small States Health Platform (SSHP) within the Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI) is intended to promote research on health systems in small states and to provide a depository for such research. The implementation of the WHO's flagship policy document 'Health 2020' requires a multi-sectoral inter disciplinary approach and for this purpose the ISSI has also set up a Small States Health Platform (SSHP) with the objective of focusing on research initiatives related to policy capacity and governance of health systems in small states.

Through this initiative the ISSI seeks to bring together the academic experience of researchers on health systems in small states and encourage a multi-disciplinary approach to such research. In addition, the SSHP organises activities relating to such research. The Platform also supports the ISSI in its role as a World Health Organisation (WHO) collaborating centre on health systems in small states.

Further information about the SSHP is available at:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/issi/ourprojects/smallstateshealthplatform>

The ISSI as a WHO Collaborating Centre.

The Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI) has been designated as the 'WHO collaborating centre on health systems and policies in small states'.

ISSI has assigned this role, during the 4th High-level Meeting of Small Countries, held on 26–27 June 2017. The WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Ministry of Health of Malta jointly organised the Meeting under the framework of the WHO Small Countries Initiative.

Due to its notable track record of top-level policy research on resilience, economy, environment and health in small states, the Institute will work with World Health Organisation as a centre of excellence and will explicitly develop frameworks and policies for strengthening resilience in small state health systems.

The Institute's role includes co-organising capacity-building events on health system leadership and governance in the specific contexts of small states. It will support the area of health information and evidence generation in small states and develop appropriate performance assessment mechanisms for small health systems.



Professor Alfred Vella, Rector of the University of Malta, being presented with the letter setting up the WHO collaborating Centre at the ISSI, by Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe, in the presence of the Minister for Health, Hon Chris Fearné.

WHO collaborating centres are institutions such as research institutes, parts of universities, or academies that are designated by the WHO director-general to carry out activities in support of the Organisation's programmes. Currently there are over 700 WHO collaborating centres in 80 countries. Further information is available at: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/sections/press-releases/2017/europes-small-countries-commit-to-ending-childhood-obesity> .

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Conference on Competitiveness strategies for the small states of the EU

The Conference was organized by Observatoire de la Compétitivité of the Ministry of the Economy of Luxembourg, in collaboration with the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta and the National Statistics Institute STATEC on 19-20 April, 2018 in Chambre de commerce, Kirchberg-Luxembourg.



Dr Serge Allegrezza (left) and Professor Lino Briguglio (Centre) co-convenors of the Luxembourg Conference. Professor Godfrey Baldacchino (right) chaired one of the plenary sessions.

The objective of the conference was to discuss competitiveness strategies appropriate for the small states of the EU, in view of their special constraints. For the purpose of the conference, the EU small states are those with a population of 3 million or less, namely Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta and Slovenia. Competitiveness issues in three candidate small states (namely Albania, Montenegro and Macedonia) and Iceland were also addressed. The conference was conducted in the English language. Further information about this conference is available at: <https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/features/2018/04/competitivenessintheeusmallstates>

Building resilience to improve health and well-being in Malta

A workshop discussing 'Building Resilience to improve Health and Well-Being in Malta' was held on the 17 October 2017 at the University Residence in Lija. In the context of health, resilience is defined as the combination of processes and skills that result in good individual and community health outcomes in spite of negative events, serious threats and hazards. This event, convened by Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, was organised jointly by the Directorate for Health Information and Research (DHIR), and the WHO Collaborating Centre on Health Systems and Policies in Small States at the Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI), University of Malta.



Participants attending the workshop “Building resilience to improve health and well-being in Malta” being addressed by Prof Erio Ziglio, who is internationally renowned on matters relating to public health. He served as scientist with the World Health Organization for many years.

This workshop was made possible through the support of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Venice Office and the Biennial Collaboration Agreement between Malta and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The workshop brought together policy-makers and academics from various sectors that contribute to health and well-being.

Further information about the workshop is available at:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/features/2017/10/buildingresiliencetoimprovehealthandwell-beinginmalta>

'Cancer Policy in Small States' - workshop

A workshop to discuss “Cancer Policy in Small States” was organized on 9th January 2018 (Ljubljana, Slovenia) –within the framework of the EU project “SMSHealth.eu - European Integration, Small States and Health” which is technically coordinated by the University of Malta.



Professor Tit Albreht speaking during the workshop on “Cancer Policy in Small States”. Professor Albreht, is Head of the Centre for Health Care, National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia.

The project involved collaboration between the Institute for European Studies, the Islands and Small States Institute and the Department of Health Services Management

Health system challenges and priorities

Health system challenges and priorities in small European states were discussed on 26th April 2018 in Brussels, Belgium at a policy dialogue organised under the auspices of the EU ERASMUS+ project “SMSHealth.eu - European Integration, Small States and Health”.

The University of Malta, through a collaborative venture between the Institute for European Studies, the Islands and Small States Institute and the Department of Health Services Management is the scientific coordinator for this multi-country project.



The leading protagonists, including Professor Roderick Pace and Dr Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat (front row centre and right) at the concluding conference of the EU ERASMUS+ project “SMSHealth.eu - European Integration, Small States and Health”.

‘Rare Diseases in Small States’ - workshop

A workshop to discuss 'Rare Diseases in Small States' was organised on 30th May 2018 in Reykjavik (Iceland) within the framework of the EU project 'SMSHealth.eu - European Integration, Small States and Health'. The project, which is technically coordinated by the University of Malta, is a joint collaboration between the Institute for European Studies, the Islands and Small States Institute and the Department of Health Services Management.



Experts who attended the workshop on rare diseases in small states, held in Iceland.

Fifth High Level Meeting of Small Countries

Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat participated at the **Fifth High Level Meeting of Small Countries** organised by the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 25 to 27 June, 2018.

Dr Azzopardi-Muscat was invited to represent the WHO Collaborating Centre on Health Systems & Policies in Small States hosted at the Islands and Small States Institute. During the session on Building Resilience, she presented research that has been carried out with Bernardette Demicoli and Prof. Lino Briguglio on strengthening health system resilience in small states using Malta as a case study.



Dr Azzopardi-Muscat also participated in the session on Health Systems where in her capacity as President of the European Public Health Association she made an appeal for investment in public health services and professionals to ensure that the three objectives set by the WHO Health Systems Tallinn conference INCLUDE, INVEST & INNOVATE are implemented in synergy.

Tourism and Culture – seminar

'The Impacts of Tourism on the Maltese Island Culture' is the title of a seminar which was organised by the Institute for Travel, Tourism and Culture and the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta on 6th June, 2018 at University of Malta Msida Campus.

Generally speaking, tourism in small islands is promoted as a source of income and employment for the host community. However, tourism has various additional positive and negative impacts, including those on the islands indigenous culture, which can usher in major social and political changes in the host country, often due to the fact that the visitors may have mores and preferences which differ from those traditionally held by the host community. This seminar focussed on the cultural interaction between the visitors and the host communities on the Maltese Islands.



Mr Leslie Vella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Malta Tourism Authority, addressing the participants at the seminar in "The Impacts of Tourism on the Maltese Island Culture"

Prof. Lino Briguglio chaired the seminar, and the speakers were Mr. Karsten Xuereb, Researcher, Superintendence of Cultural Heritage Malta, Prof. George Cassar, Associate Professor, Heritage & Cultural Tourism, University of Malta, Dr. Marie Avellino, Director, Institute for Travel, Tourism and Culture, University of Malta and Mr Leslie Vella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Malta Tourism Authority

Tourism Carrying Capacity?

This seminar offered a contribution, on behalf of the University of Malta, to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's (UNWTO) 2017 celebrations for the 'International Year of Sustainable Tourism Development'. The seminar was being jointly organised by the Islands and Small States Institute (ISSI) and the Institute for Tourism Travel and Culture (ITTC) on 6th December, 2017 at University of Malta Msida Campus.

The seminar was chaired by Professor Andrew Jones, Institute for Travel, Tourism and Culture. A presentation relating to tourism carrying capacity was delivered by Mr Julian Zarb, a tourism consultant. The panel of speakers consisted of Dr Marie-Louise Mangion, Public Policy; University of Malta, Professor Lino Briguglio, Islands & Small States Institute, University of Malta, Mr Leslie Vella, Deputy Chief Executive Malta Tourism Authority and Mr Adrian Attard, Malta Hotel and Restaurants Association.

Mitigation and Trade Patterns

The Climate Change Platform (CCP) organised its fourth Climate Change Research Seminar Series on the 24th of November. Professor Maria Attard, Director of the Institute of Sustainable Development and Climate Change and Vice Chair of the Climate Change Platform, opened the seminar, highlighting the importance of such research initiatives, and stressing the growing relevance of research, which while producing evidence-based knowledge, can support decision making more effectively.



Participants attending the Climate Change Platform research seminar on 'Migration and Trade Patterns'.

The keynote address was delivered by Professor Taruna Shalini Ramessur, Associate Professor at Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Mauritius, who showed how the energy and agriculture sectors can drive climate change mitigation actions, especially if supported by the right level of economic incentives and certification. The panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Stefano Moncada, Climate Change Platform Focal Point, included Dr. Charles Yousif, Lecturer, Institute for Sustainable Energy, University of Malta, Mr. Tony Meli, Institute for Earth Systems, University of Malta, Mr. Martin Galea de Giovanni, Friend of the Earth Malta. The discussants all agreed on the important role that the energy and the agriculture sectors can play in reducing their share of greenhouse gas emissions in Malta, especially when cooperating with one another.

Adaptation Futures Conference in South Africa

The Islands and Small States Institute, through an initiative taken by Dr Stefano Moncada, co-hosted a special session on ‘Adaptation and Development in Small Island Developing States’, at the 2018 Adaptation Futures conference held in Cape Town (South Africa) from 18 to 21 June 2018. The Adaptation Futures conference is held every two years, with the support of the United Nations, and gathers thousands of scholars, practitioners and policy makers, to focus on solutions and on active dialogues to promote climate change adaptation at all levels.



Dr Moncada delivering his research on climate change impacts and coping strategies in vulnerable coastal communities of Mauritius

The session was co-organised with Dr Dinesh Surroop from the University of the Mauritius, Professor Hilary Bambrick from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), and Prof. Leonard Nurse from the University of West Indies (Cave Hill Campus). During the conference a keynote speech was delivered by Professor Patrick Nunn, from the University of the Sunshine Coast, stressing that barriers to adaptation have two sides, demolishing them requires that we stop privileging western science approaches to the exclusion of others’. A total of five presentations were delivered by Ph.D. students and researchers, all addressing the possible opportunities, and the specific challenges faced by small island developing states when implementing climate change adaptation.

Symposia on the Book on Small States

Symposia on the *Handbook of Small States Economic, Social and Environmental Issues*, edited by Prof. Lino Briguglio and published by Routledge, were organised at:

- the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank at St Kitts and Nevis on 22 May 2018
<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/features/2018/05/handbookofsmallstates>
- the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, on 25 June 2018
<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/features/2018/06/handbookofsmallstatesatcommonwealthsecretariat>;
- University of Malta, on 27 June 2018.
<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/events/umevents/2018/06/seminaronsmallstateseconomic.socialandenvironmentalissues>



Some of the authors of chapters included in *Handbook on small states*, Let to right: Dr Carl Camilleri, Dr Stefano Moncada, Prof. Lino Briguglio, Mr Melchior Vella, Dr Jonathan Spiteri and Dr Marie Briguglio at the University of Malta symposium.

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)

The Islands and Small States Institute has collaborated with the Secretariat of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) in various through the services of Mr Daniel Arthurton



Photo: Prof Lino Briguglio with Mr Daniel Arthurton of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

Collaboration with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

The Islands and Small States Institute has collaborated with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in drawing up a proposal for conducting Vulnerability and Resilience Profiling in the member states of the OECS.



Prof Lino Briguglio with His Excellency Dr Didacus Jules, Director General of the of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

PUBLICATIONS

The Small States & Territories Journal

The Small States & Territories (SST) journal has its institutional home at the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta, in Malta (itself a small state). All articles published in SST are rigorously peer reviewed.

SST is a scholarly, open-access journal dedicated exclusively to the study of the nature and workings of small sovereign states (however defined) and non-sovereign territories, and including the comparison between the two. With a world system that has only a few 'large states', and over a hundred subnational jurisdictions spread over all continents and oceans – from Abkhazia to Zanzibar, and from Åland to Wallis and Futuna – there is no shortage of subject matter for the journal.

SST encourages a truly pluri-disciplinary approach to the study of small jurisdictions. Nevertheless, we also recognize the added relevance of specific disciplinary foci in the social sciences. Amongst these: geography, political science, economics, education, governance, international relations, public administration, international law and development studies.

Information about the journal is available at: <https://www.um.edu.mt/sst/sst11may2018>

Occasional papers

The Institute publishes occasional papers on islands and small states. The papers can be downloaded from https://www.um.edu.mt/islands/publications/occasional_papers.

Publications by persons associated with the ISSI

Persons associated with the Institute have published studies on themes relating to islands and small states. Some of these publications are listed at: https://www.um.edu.mt/issi/publications_of_interest.

VISITORS

Visit by Sherilyn Acorn-LeClair

Sherilyn Acorn-LeClair, International Liaison Officer for the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), Canada visited Islands and Small States Institute in April 2018.

Following this meeting, an Erasmus + academic exchange proposal was put together and successfully approved by the National Agency, funding the exchange for the years 2019 and 2020.



Visit by a delegation from Hainan Province

A delegation from National Institute for South China Sea Studies (NISCSS) delegation, led by its president Professor Wu Shicun visited the Islands and Small States Institute on 12th June 2018. NISCSS is a national-level think tank based in Hainan, with the primary mission of informing the policy making regarding the South China Sea issue, as well as the economic and social development of Hainan Province, an island where the use and development of the sea is of major importance.

The objective of the visit was to promote the exchange and cooperation between research institutes and think tanks between Malta and the island province of Hainan, China.



Prof Wu Shicun presenting a souvenir of Hainan province on behalf of the NISCSS to Professor Lino Briguglio, as Director of the Islands and Small States Institute.

Visitors from the University of the Ryukyus, Japan

Representatives from the University of the Ryukyus, located in the Japanese island of Okinawa, visited the Islands and Small Institute at the end of March 2018.



Prof. Briguglio, Dr Moncada (left) Professor Ikue Kina and Prof. Yoko Fujita (right) during a meeting at the Islands and Small States Institute.

Professor Ikue Kina and Prof. Yoko Fujita delivered a series of lectures and met academics from the University of Malta with the objectives of establishing collaborations and strengthen the ties among the two university both in teaching and research.