



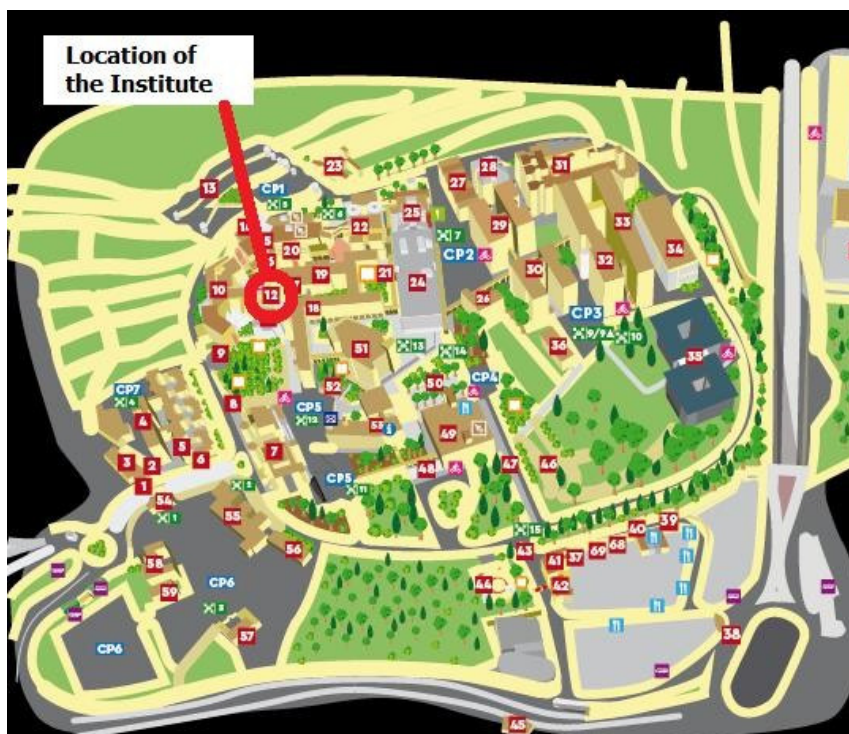
**ISLANDS AND  
SMALL STATES  
INSTITUTE**  
at the **University of Malta**

**Annual Report**  
**Academic year 2018/2019**

## 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 Claudette Mifsud (Clerk) while Dr Noemi Tari-Keresztes acted as Research Support Officer till April 2019.



Ms. Claudette Mifsud (left) and Dr Noemi Tari-Keresztes

In June 2019, Mr Joseph Caruana and Mr Domini Kalweit joined the Institute as Research Support Officers.

## Boards

### *The ISSI Board*

During the academic year 2018/19, the ISSI Board was chaired by Prof Godfrey Baldacchino.

### **The Board was further composed of the following members:**

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



Meeting of the Islands of the Institute held on 29 May 2019, 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.

## **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:

[www.um.edu.mt/issi/ourprojects/climatechangeplatform](http://www.um.edu.mt/issi/ourprojects/climatechangeplatform)

### **Island Tourism Platform (ITP)**

The ITP 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 Mangion | Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy        |
| Mr Julian Zarb          | Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture               |

Further information about the ITP is available at:

[www.um.edu.mt/islands/islandtourismplatform](http://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 interdisciplinary 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:

[www.um.edu.mt/issi/ourprojects/smallstateshealthplatform](http://www.um.edu.mt/issi/ourprojects/smallstateshealthplatform)

**CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES**

The SSHP WHO Collaborating Centre was represented by Dr Azzopardi Muscat at a workshop on Health Systems Performance Assessment in Small States at the European Public Health Conference in Ljubljana between the 26 and 30 November 2018.

The WHO Collaborating Centre on Health Systems and Policies in Small States jointly organised a workshop on Friday 10 May 2019 held at Mater Dei Hospital to discuss the role of clinical and public health leaders in strengthening governance in small state health systems. The event was made possible through the support of the Ministry for Health and the World Health Organisation's Regional Office for Europe, Biennial Cooperation Agreement 2018-2019. The meeting was moderated by Dr Walter Busuttil, Medical Director at Mater Dei Hospital and Dr Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat.

Dr Azzopardi Muscat was invited to deliver a keynote lecture on 'Building Resilient

and Sustainable Health Systems in Small States’ on behalf of the ISSI WHO Collaborating Centre. This was delivered in San Marino on 9 May 2019. Further info available here:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/features/2019/05/umacademicparticipatesatconferenceinsanmarino/>

Dr Azzopardi Muscat attended the WHO Euro Sixth High-Level meeting of small countries "Equity and Sustainable Development – Keeping People at the Centre in the Republic of San Marino between the 31 March and 2 April 2019, where she delivered a presentation on “Addressing 21st century health workforce challenges in small countries”.

Dr Moncada (focal point of the Climate Change Platform) participated in the 2018 Adaptation Conference held in Cape Town, South Africa, during which the ISSI coordinated a special session on development and climate change in small island developing states.

Members of the steering committee of the Climate Change Platform (CCP) coordinated the submission of detailed feedback to the Maltese Government as part of the public consultation for the Malta Energy and Climate Plan.

The CCP also produced a ‘Statement of scientists and scholars concerning the student-driven protests for more climate protection’, following a similar movement of scientists and scholars in the UK, Germany, Austria and Italy.

Furthermore, the CCP drafted a contribution to a paper being coordinated by the University of Hamburg entitled ‘Assessing the Role of Ecosystems Services in the Sustainability of the Urban Environment: a multi-country analysis’.

Dr Avellino, Chair of the ITP, organised a seminar in collaboration with the ISSI on 5 December 2018 entitled “Maximising whilst Sustaining Cultural Resources: Island Tourism and Beyond.” The ITP also continued carrying out joint research on carrying capacity based on a survey on attitudes towards tourism in the Maltese Islands.

## Organisation with the Commission of the OECS



Dr John Paul Cauchi and Dr Stefano Moncada, host of the seminar

Dr John Paul Cauchi was a guest speaker during a seminar on Kiribati, a group of Islands located in the South Pacific. His presentation was titled 'Land above water: lessons learnt from the interaction between climate, food security and health in an island nation'. The event was held 24 June 2019 and was hosted by Stefano Moncada, member of the Board of the Islands and Small States Institute. Dr Cauchi, who graduated with a medical degree (MD) from the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Malta in November 2009 is reading for a Ph.D. at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) was in Malta as part of an Erasmus+ exchange at UM.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Special Section in 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. Information about the journal is available at: [www.um.edu.mt/sst/sst11may2018](http://www.um.edu.mt/sst/sst11may2018)

### **Occasional papers**

The Institute publishes occasional papers on islands and small states. The papers can be downloaded from [www.um.edu.mt/islands/publications/occasional\\_papers](http://www.um.edu.mt/islands/publications/occasional_papers).

## **VISITORS**

Prof. Alberto Javier Báez-García, a scholar from the Universidad de La Laguna in Tenerife (Canary Islands), visited the Institute in December 2018. During his stay in Malta he carried out research about the Maltese Islands and delivered a research seminar on tourism in the Canary Islands. Dr Stefano Moncada, from the Institute for European Studies, acted as the main discussant, and started off the discussion among all participants. The seminar was hosted by the Institute for European Studies and the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Arts, which was organizing a series of such seminars in collaboration with the Department of International Relations.

Professor Helmut Wagner visited the Institute on 30 April 2019. He is an economics professor, the director of the macroeconomics chair at University of Hagen (Germany), the president of the Center for East Asia Macroeconomic Studies (CEAMeS), and a regular senior advisor to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC. He has also been a Jean-Monnet-Professor for European Integration as well as Visiting Professor at Harvard University, MIT (Cambridge, US), Princeton University, University of California, Hitotsubashi University (Tokyo, Japan), and Xiamen University (Xiamen, China).

Prof. Petar Kurečić, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism; Department of Business Economics, University North, Croatia visited the Institute on 4 April 2019. He is a Professor of Political Science and Asst. Professor of Geography at the same University. His research interests include small states and small economies,

migration, and challenges to the European integration.

ISSI, in cooperation with the Institute for European Studies and the Department of Economics, hosted Dr Riad Sultan from the University of Mauritius for a series of lectures and seminars as part of the Erasmus + academic exchange between the two universities. Riad M. Sultan is a Senior Lecturer in Environmental and Resource Economics at the University of Mauritius. He is currently researching on sustainable fisheries and marine spatial planning. Dr Stefano Moncada coordinated the academic exchange and reciprocated the visit to the University of Mauritius in June 2019, delivering lectures on the EU development and climate change policy, and discussing his recent research that focuses on the links between poverty and climate change among coastal communities in the Mauritius.

Dr Verena Tandrayen-Ragoobur, Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Mauritius, visited the University of Malta to explore additional avenues of cooperation between the two universities. Her visit is part of an Erasmus+ academic exchange, coordinated the ISSI. Dr Tandrayen-Ragoobur's research focuses on climate change, gender, labour market and trade.