



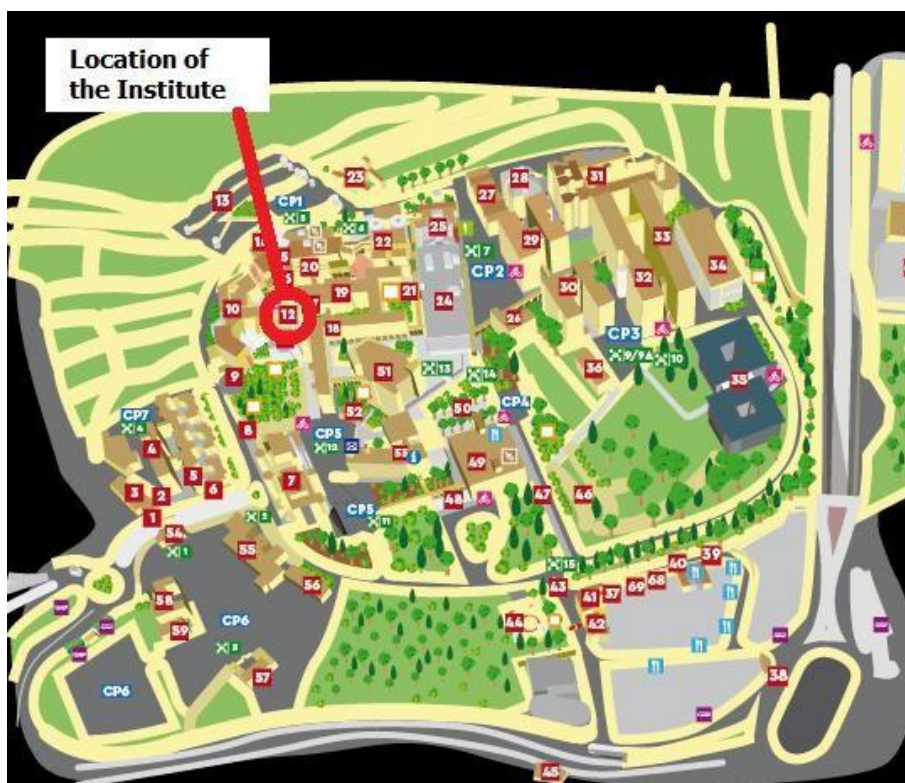
**ISLANDS AND  
SMALL STATES  
INSTITUTE**  
**at the University of Malta**

**Annual Report**  
**Academic year 2019/2020**

## 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 Ġużè Cassar Pullicino Building at the Tal-Qroqq Campus.



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

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTE

### Chair of 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.



Professor Lino Briguglio, Director

## Postgraduate Coordinator

Dr Stefano Moncada

## Staff

Secretary: Ms Natalie Schembri, who was appointed the new administrator of the Institute, replacing Ms Claudette Mifsud.

Research Support Officers: Dominik Kalweit, William Grech (replacing Joseph Caruana).

## Boards

### *The ISSI Board*

During the academic year 2019/2020, the ISSI Board continued to be chaired by Prof Godfrey Baldacchino.

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

Professor Godfrey Baldacchino (in the Chair)

Professor Lino Briguglio

Dr Stefano Moncada

Professor Roderick Pace

Dr Mario Thomas Vassallo

Dr Ing. Charles Yousif

Perit Raphael Axiak

Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat

***Mr Robert Tabone (student representative)***

### *The ISSI Doctoral Committee*

The ISSI Doctoral Committee was chaired by Dr Stefano Moncada, with Professor Lino Briguglio and Professor Roderick Pace as members, together with a student representative.

## **RESEARCH PLATFORMS HOSTED BY 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 & EVENTS**

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration**

The ISSI commemorated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary through a panel discussion held on 9 December 2019.

A panel of eminent speakers presented topics that are of relevance to the Institute:

- Professor Godfrey Baldacchino: 'Why small island states succeed economically'
- Professor Roderick Pace: 'The role of small states in the European Union'
- Dr Stefano Moncada: 'Climate change and small island states'
- Dr Kenneth Grech: 'Health policies in the European small states'.

The panel was chaired by Professor Lino Briguglio.

On the occasion of the Institute's 30th Anniversary, in December 2019, the ISSI has launched a Commemorative Publication, providing valuable information about its history, academic and policy contributions, fields of work, offers and contributors of the past three decades:

[https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/bitstream/123456789/49778/1/ISSI\\_30-Years\\_Commemorative-Publication.pdf](https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/bitstream/123456789/49778/1/ISSI_30-Years_Commemorative-Publication.pdf)

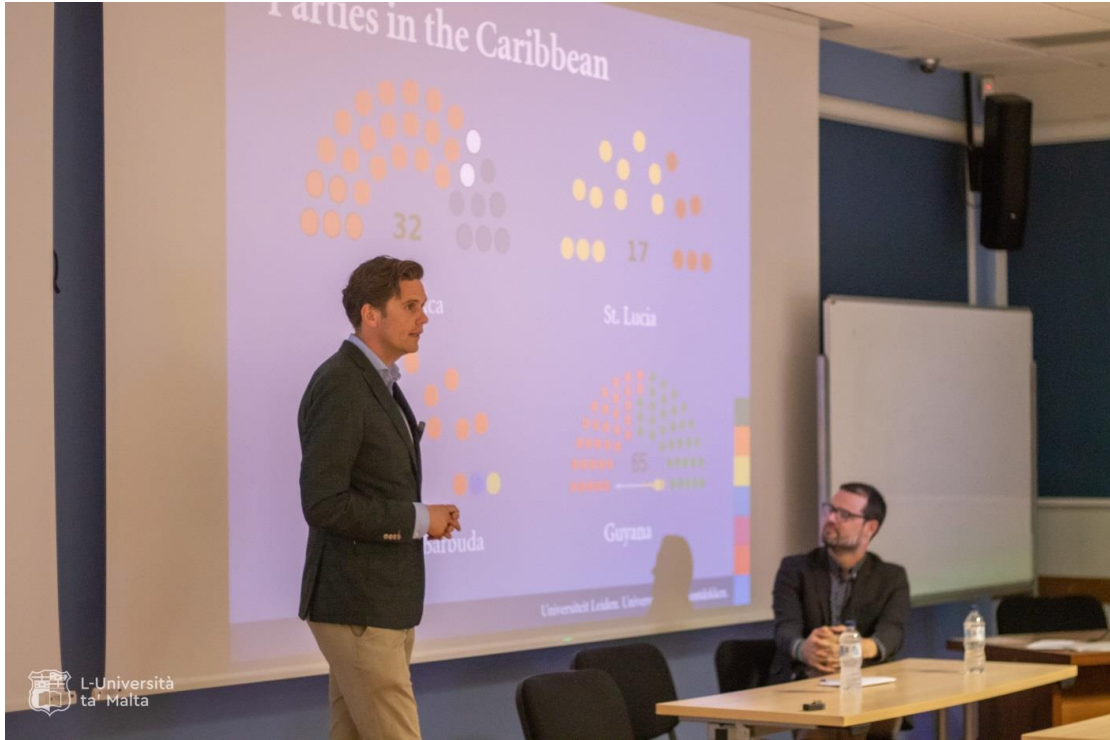
### **Public Lecture by Alan Chong on “Foreign Policy and Development after 1964: the Divergent Trajectories of Malta and Singapore”, held on 11 October 2019**

On 11 October 2019, the (ISSI) organised a public lecture on “Foreign Policy and Development after 1964: the Divergent Trajectories of Malta and Singapore”, delivered by Professor Alan Chong from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. The lecture offered a preliminary comparison of Malta and Singapore as small states which proceeded through three categories of examination: stabilising the geopolitical environment for growth; experiments in integration into a global economy; and the idea of a globally branded small state.



**Public Lecture by Wouter Veneendaal and Jack Corbett, on “Political Parties in Small (Island) States: How to Explain the Differences?”, held on 17 February 2020**

The ISSI, the Institute for European Studies, the Work in Progress Seminar Series (WIPSS) and the European Documentation and Information Centre co-organised a public lecture by Dr Wouter Veneendaal and Dr Jack Corbett on 17 February 2020. Examining the experiences of small island states around the world, the lecturers explored why some small states indeed have weak parties or no parties at all, while others have extremely stable patterns of party competition.



The three platforms hosted by the ISSI did not organise any physical meetings due to the prevalent COVID-19 situation. Nevertheless, their members continued with their research activities and planning for online events.

The Small States Health Platform and the Climate Change Platform organised a webinar on 2 September 2020, in cooperation with the WHO, on 'Covid-19 and Small States'.

## **COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES**

### **Collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs**

A Declaration of Principles was signed by the University of Malta and the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs with a ceremony and press conference held on 14 September 2020. This agreement aims at expanding the cooperation between the Ministry and the UM in the field of islands and small state scholarship.

### **Collaboration with the University of Seychelles**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Seychelles to promote mutual cooperation in teaching and research was being finalised towards the end of 2020. One of the main objectives of this MoU is to offer the ISSI Doctoral programme to academics employed by the University of Seychelles that still need to obtain their PhDs, and who would be trained by the ISSI to this end.

### **Collaboration with partner universities for teaching mobility projects**

In 2019, the ISSI has been awarded Erasmus + funding, under the Key Action 107 programme, for a number of academic exchanges with the University of West Indies (Cave Hill Campus, Barbados), the University of Prince Edward Island (Canada), Queensland University of Technology (Australia) and with the University of Mauritius. Given the Coronavirus pandemic situation which started in 2020, these mobilities had to be extended, and a request until mid-2021 was granted by the European Commission.

## **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. Information about the journal is

available at: [www.um.edu.mt/sst/sst11may2018](http://www.um.edu.mt/sst/sst11may2018)

ISSI made the necessary preparatory work for the Journal to be included in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). To this end, a series of changes to the website and specific information to be included in the articles were made to adhere to the standards required by this process. Furthermore, an ad-hoc marketing and social media campaign to promote the articles was put in place and was to be launched towards the end of 2020.

## **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).

## **COURSES**

Between October 2019 and September 2020, the ISSI has offered the following study programmes:

PhD (Islands and Small States Studies): Two students engaged in the PhD studies.

Master of Arts (Research on Islands and Small States): From the intake 2018/19, in 2019, all seven students had completed and passed the final assessment. Two of these students had submitted their dissertation in August 2019 and graduated in November 2019. Four students submitted and defended their dissertations by mid-2020, whilst one student was given a further six-month extension.

Diploma in Lace Studies: The course was progressing well and completed in June 2020.