



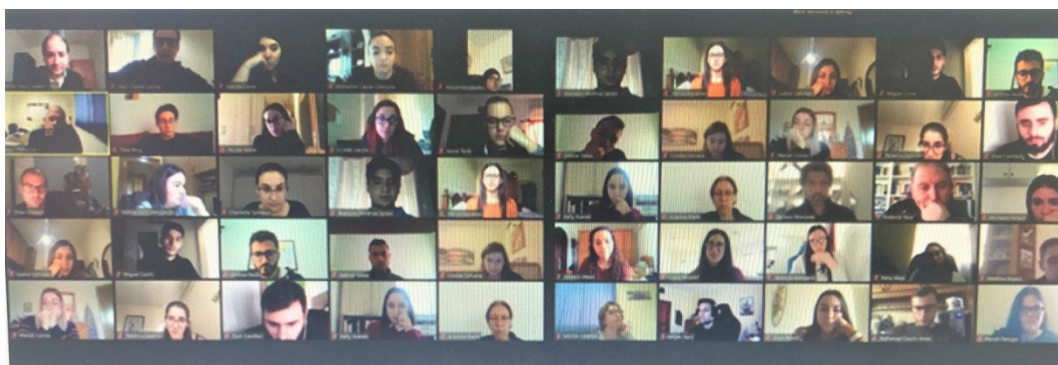
L-Università ta' Malta
Institute for European Studies

Institute for European Studies Newsletter

October 2021 | Issue 22

Inside this Issue:

- **Welcome Note – Dr Harwood, Director of the Institute** **Page 2**
- **COVID-19 and its Impact on our Work** **Page 3**
- **The Europe Direct Information Centre** **Page 4**
- **Preparations for the EISA Annual Conference 2021** **Page 7**
- **Dissertation Events** **Page 8**
- **Placements** **Page 9**
- **Erasmus** **Page 11**
- **Fifth Year of the Research Seminar Series** **Page 12**
- **Events – IES and EDIC (UoM)** **Page 12**
- **Publications and Activities of Institute Academics** **Page 18**
- **Undergraduate and Postgraduate Dissertations submitted in 2020/2021 by IES Students** **Page 25**



Welcome Note

Dr Mark Harwood - Director

On behalf of the academic and administrative staff at the Institute, I would like to welcome you to the start of a new academic year. During the academic year 2020-2021 the Institute continued to function as normal albeit in the face of the varied challenges posed by COVID-19. While the academic year began with a return to normalcy (with physical lectures for the first years and teleworking directives being eased) we increasingly shifted work back online as COVID-measures were reinstated at a national level. Considering the fact that the Institute offers many different types of degrees in combination with other subjects and cooperates with many different faculties/departments and considering our large student body, we were very pleased to see that everything ran smoothly, that all deadlines were met, all courses were taught and that we continued to offer a varied and engaging series of events. Reflecting on this year, the following points are of note;

- Our student numbers continued to be buoyant and the Institute remains one of the largest academic entities at the University of Malta. In the academic year 2020/2021 we also saw a significant increase in the number of students on the MA programme with 33 students, representing one of the largest cohorts in our history. The Institute also added Disability Studies to the joint areas of study. While 2020/2021 was a challenging year, it was satisfying to see that students still applied for and went on Erasmus while the placement programme functioned as normal for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- In 2020/2021 the Institute concluded its contract with the European Commission to host a Europe Direct Information Centre (EDIC). The EDIC was a three year contract where we provided EU-related

information, organised EU-related events and answered queries about the EU. Due to the pandemic, the contract was



Dr Mark Harwood, Director

extended into 2021 and was officially concluded in April of this year. The EDIC was a great experience for the Institute and allowed us to collaborate with various student organisations and University entities and to organise many interesting and informative events, including several public events with European Commissioners. The Institute will remain linked with the Europe Direct Network through our EDC.

- The Institute offered a varied list of events during the academic year including a public talk on the rule of law with the European Commissioner for Justice, Didier Reynders, a workshop on debating democracy held in conjunction with the European Parliament Office in Malta, a university-wide training seminar on the EU's eTranslation tool (which is available to all university employees), workshops on how students can apply for EU traineeships and jobs (held in conjunction

with the Maltese Representation in Brussels as well as Eurodesk) as well as an exceptionally engaging roundtable discussion on the future of Europe which featured a list of former External Examiners of the Institute dating back 15 years.

- As with the work of the EDIC and our events listed above, a central priority has been collaboration. In addition to our *Ideas in Brown Bags* seminar series with the Department of International Relations, we cooperated closely with the Department of European and Comparative Law, the Faculty of Social Wellbeing, the Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution, the European Commission's Representation to Malta, the European Parliament's Office in Malta, the European Studies Organisation and JEF. Through collaboration we become more able to achieve our strategic goals.
- As announced in 2019, the Institute was to be the partner institution of the European International Studies Association's 2020 annual conference. The conference was to be the biggest academic conference ever held in Malta and was to run from 15 to 19 September 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference had to be postponed and was rescheduled to September 2021. However, as the COVID-pandemic persisted, the decision was taken in early 2021 to shift the 2021 conference online and to host a virtual conference. The EISA 2022 conference will be held, as planned, in Greece with the potential to hold the 2023 conference in Malta.
- During the academic year the Institute welcomed a new 'Officer in Charge' of the Institute, Ms Corinne Fenech. Corinne has become an integral part of the Institute and settled into her new role quickly and with ease. We are very happy to welcome her as part of our team.
- The Director would like to conclude this introduction with a note of thanks to the

staff of the Institute who have been extraordinary in their commitment and hard work during the academic year 2020/2021. While this has not been a normal year on any level, the Institute accommodated COVID-19 with no disruption to our normal work, whether teaching, research or outreach and I believe we should be justly proud of that record.

COVID-19 and its Impact on our Work

The academic year 2020/2021 began with a return to normalcy as COVID-measures were eased and some lectures could be taught physically. However, as infection rates continued to grow during the winter, new measures were introduced, including the reintroduction of teleworking arrangements. For this reason, several of the internal measures adopted in 2019/2020 continued into the academic year 2020/2021, especially:

- As we moved to online teaching, academics were asked to switch all teaching to online platforms which necessitated further training, especially for online exams with staff taking courses in Wiseflow.
- As COVID-19 measures persisted and as had happened in the second semester of 2019/2020, we had to decide how the assessment process would be conducted as we use a mixed range of assessment tools, especially in the second and third year. The decision was taken to continue with all non-exam assessments, such as posters and presentations. While some assessments were shifted to assignments, the Institute also began to use Wiseflow exams as an option going forward.
- A staff meeting was held in September 2021 to discuss which elements of COVID-19 measures might be kept moving forward. One such element was one-to-one student meetings being held online; it was felt that online meetings with students worked well, allowed students flexibility in arranging a time to meet and did not detract from the quality of the

meeting. While the option for physical 'student hours' will continue, it was agreed that student meetings could continue online as well.

The Europe Direct Information Centre

In 2018, the Institute successfully applied for a European Commission tender, entitled *Selection of Host Structures for the Information Centres of The Europe Direct Network in Malta 2018-2020*, to host a Europe Direct Information Centre under Grant Agreement Ref: 301-14/02/2-18-9140-2236-1. The contract involved the Institute answering EU related queries, providing information to students and the general public on the EU and organising events. EDIC University was managed by the Director, Dr Harwood, who attended organisational meetings in Brussels as well as answered any queries received by the EDIC (which numbered an average of 10 per month). While placing the Institute in a better position to deliver on its main objectives, the EDIC enabled the Institute to raise its profile across University and beyond.

The Institute was due to conclude its three year participation in the EDIC network in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the contract was extended by 4 months and finished on 30 April 2021. The hosting of the EDIC was a unique opportunity for outreach, EU cooperation and funding opportunities, financed through the EU's Europe Direct Network. In May 2021 all reporting requirements linked to the EDIC were concluded and submitted to the European Commission Representation in Malta.

As part of the final works undertaken in association with the EDIC, the EDC was fully upgraded with the installation of new flooring, new shelving as well as sofas and new chairs. The aim is to ensure that the EDC is a welcoming environment for students and the general public. While the EDIC contract has finished, the EDC will continue to be part of the Europe Direct network and will continue to cooperate with the Europe Direct Centres in Malta. As an extension of the upgrade of the EDC, all the doors within the Institute were replaced to create a more welcoming environment for staff and students.

On a final note, a word of thanks to Dr Jean Claude Cachia who helped in the organization of events during our period as an EDIC and Mr Stefan Bezzina, the EDC manager, who was a vital link in providing support and logistics to the running of the EDIC.

Below are some of the images of the EDIC as well as events organized under the EDIC banner in previous years.



The EDIC Walk-In Centre on campus



The EDIC Walk-In Centre on campus



The 'Europe Day' Quiz Night of 2018



The Maltese participants in the cross-border project



Dr Liam Weeks speaking about the Irish context to Brexit, 2018



Dr David Jeffery (University of Liverpool) speaking about the UK Conservative Party and Brexit, 2018



Cross-Border Dialogue between Malta and Sicily with UoM students participating- 2018



European Vocational Skills event held in conjunction with the Faculty of Education – 2018



EU Careers – public talk by EPSO, 2019



Public talk by Dr Gemma Bird (University of Liverpool) on the Balkan migration route into the EU, 2019



Prof Richard Pomfret (University of Adelaide) speaking about the EU and its trade policy, 2019



The 'Europe Day' Quiz Night of 2019



Exhibition to mark 25 years of the Single Market, 2019



EDIC sponsored event by GHSL on 'The Supremacy of EU Law' in 2019



Workshop by DG Environment at the IES, presented by Dr Joanna Drake, Deputy DG, 2019



First LGBTIQ Research Symposium 2019



European Vocational Skills event held in conjunction with the Faculty of Education – 2019

Preparations for the European International Studies Association Annual Conference 2021

As announced in 2019, the Institute was to be the partner institution of the European International Studies Association's 2020 annual conference. The conference was to be the biggest academic conference ever held in Malta and was to run from 15 to 19 September 2020. In preparation for this conference, a series of meetings were held throughout 2019/2020 to help organise this event, including a site visit by the EISA President, Prof. Beate Jahn. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference had to be postponed and was rescheduled to September 2021. However, as the COVID-pandemic persisted, the decision was taken in early 2021 to shift the 2021 conference online and to host a virtual conference. The EISA 2022 conference will be held, as planned, in Greece with the potential to hold the 2023 conference in Malta.



Prof Jahn meeting the Rector, Prof. Vella



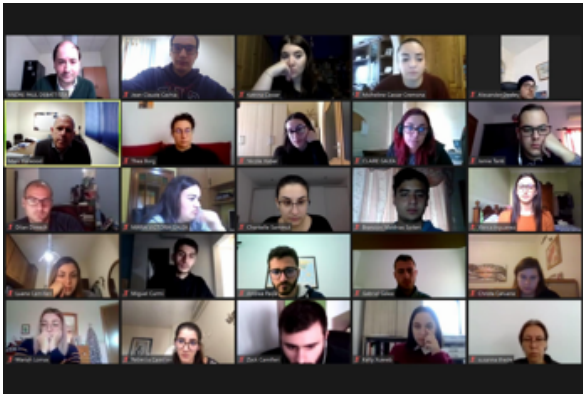
The online portal for the conference before the decision to shift the conference online

Dissertation Events 12th Gozo Seminar (2 March 2021)

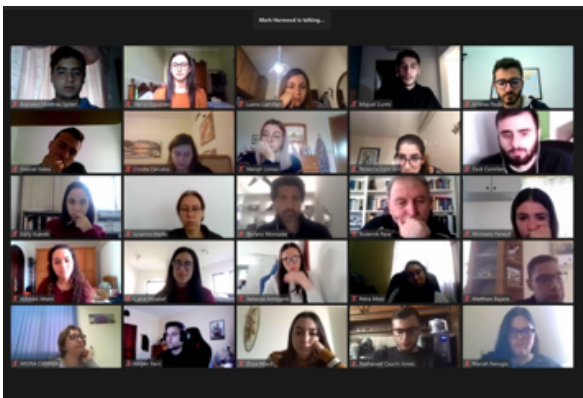
The Gozo Seminar has become an integral part of the Institute's academic calendar. Normally held in February, 3rd year students on the Bachelor's programme travel to Gozo with the academic staff for 2/3 days of intensive discussions regarding their dissertations. Students present their research proposal to their classmates and the assembled academics and discuss any difficulties they have encountered.

While the Institute had managed to hold the 2019/2020 seminar in Gozo as normal (just before the COVID-19 restrictions were first introduced) the 2020/2021 seminar could not be held as a physical event. As with many other events, the seminar shifted online and on 2 March 2021 the Institute held its first virtual 'Gozo' seminar.

Held in the same manner as all other Gozo seminars, students presented their work for feedback. While the students missed out from the social element of the event, it was still a great success.



Screenshot of the event with student and staff featured



Screenshot of the event with student and staff featured

2020/2021 Best Dissertation Award Ceremony

The Institute has established an annual prize for the best dissertation in the undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes. The prize is awarded to the dissertation gaining the highest mark.

In January 2021 the Institute was proud to present the best dissertation awards for the Bachelor's and MA programmes. On the Bachelor's course, 3 students all gained the same mark for their thesis and were, therefore, joint winners of the prize, namely Ms Jasmine Cassar, Mr James Cini and Ms Finia Kampe. On the MA programme the winner of the Best Dissertation prize was Mr Gabriel Cassar.



Ms Jasmine Cassar receiving her prize from Dr Mark Harwood



Mr James Cini receiving his prize from Dr Mark Harwood



Ms Finia Kampe received her prize via post as she had returned to Germany after the completion of her course



Mr Gabriel Cassar receiving his prize from Dr Mark Harwood

Placements

The Institute has been running a successful placement programme over the past decade, with agreements in place with various entities in the public and private sectors as well as with a number of NGOs. Placement opportunities are included as an elective study unit in the programme of studies for both the Institute's under-graduate as well as post-graduate students.

During 2020/21, 7 under-graduate students and 3 post-graduate students undertook placements as part of their academic programme. These students carried out their placements in different entities, namely the European Parliament Office in Malta, Ernst and Young, the Malta Business

Bureau, the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Malta Chamber of SMEs, the Ministry for Finance and Employment, the Planning and Priorities Co-ordination Division, SEM (*Servizz Ewropej f' Malta*), Zaar Crowdfunding platform and the NGO SKOP.

During their placements, the students have the opportunity to carry out practical work, under supervision, in the area of European studies. The tasks carried out are diverse and reflect the core activities of the entity where the placement takes place. They include research activities and report writing on current EU topics, assisting in the completing of applications and in the management of EU funded projects, providing support in relation to public relations and the management of social media platforms. The students are also assigned an academic mentor from the Institute's resident academic staff who provides the required support during the placement. Through these placements, the Institute's students have the opportunity to gain relevant work experience in the area of European studies, thus preparing them for their future working careers.

In addition to the placement programme offered by the Institute, the Government of Malta is also offering a placement programme which enables students to work for a year in a government department. As can be seen from the following testimonials, several students from the Institute also followed this programme which is separate from the Institute and does not form part of our degree but which is still an important opportunity for students wishing to gain practical experience.

Placement Experience at the Malta Chamber of Commerce Experience – Martina Spiteri

In my second year of studies, I sought to relate the academic theory I had learned so far at University to a more practical knowledge. In this regard, I decided to pursue the placement programme offered by the Institute. This enabled me to step into the professional world and to obtain first-hand work experience.

I was selected to carry out my placement at the Malta Business Bureau (MBB). The MBB is an EU-business advisory organisation that places the interests of the Maltese business community at the centre of its work. With a head office in Valletta and a representation office in Brussels, the MBB keeps local businesses abreast of EU developments and supports them to tap into the wealth of opportunities offered by the EU. From the very first day, the dedicated and talented team of people at MBB made me feel welcome and soon enough, I felt part of the team.

My time at MBB has allowed me to gain all-round exposure that has further developed my soft skills, academic knowledge, and employability prospects. I had the opportunity to work on exciting EU projects, to assist in the preparation of the MBB's 25th Annual Report, and to participate in webinars, meetings, and focus groups discussing important current topics. I have also had the role of supporting the team in their day-to-day work, and I am grateful to the MBB for teaching me that teams that grow together, stay together.

This placement was definitely the highlight of my second year. For those students out there who wish to grow both personally and academically, take advantage of your time as a student to test new ground through the Institute's placement programme – and don't forget to make the most of it!



Ms Martina Spiteri

Placement Experience with the Government of Malta – Internship at the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs – Miguel Curmi

For the past nine months, I have had the opportunity to work as an intern with the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA). I applied for the internship through the 'Degreeplus Programme' found on the University website. This enables students to get invaluable work experience, increase employability prospects, and also create opportunities for enriching their academic portfolio. The internship is on a contract basis for one year, which can be extended for a further year so long one remains a full-time student. From the internships available I chose the MFEA as it directly relates to my area of studies, and thus has enabled me to put three years of study into practice.

The MFEA is responsible for Maltese diplomacy, bilateral and multilateral affairs. Furthermore, it oversees the diplomatic network of Malta, those working in Malta and those posted in the different embassies and international organisations around the globe representing Malta's interests. The ministry is composed of several different directorates having different remits, such as the Directorate for European Affairs and the Directorate for Global Issues, which deals with several priorities such as sanctions and disarmament.

I am currently doing my internship with the Directorate for European Affairs, which is responsible for the bilateral relations between Malta and EU Member States, the Western Balkans countries, and others such as the UK and Turkey. The directorate's main aim is to create, sustain, and improve upon the advantageous relationship of Malta with these countries. Furthermore, the directorate aim is to ensure that Malta's interests with these countries are protected whilst making sure that the relationship with these neighbouring countries are at the best possible level.

Throughout these past nine months I gained a better understanding of the way diplomacy works in bilateral relations with other countries and in international forums. To this end, I encourage all

students currently enrolled in a course to visit the 'Degreeplus Programme' and apply for an internship or a placement directly related to their area of study, as this will undoubtedly gain you a comparative advantage in terms of experience and skills.



Mr Miguel Curmi

Erasmus

The Institute currently holds Erasmus agreements with Tampere (2UG) in Finland; Paris 8 (2 UG) in France; Konstanz (2 UG) and Mannheim (2 UG) in Germany; Limerick (4 UG) in Ireland; Bologna (4 UG) in Italy; the Hague (2 UG) in The Netherlands; Warsaw (6 UG) in Poland; Istanbul Bilgi (2 UG) in Turkey; and Essex (1 UG) in the UK.

Postgraduate students also have the opportunity to travel on Erasmus. The Institute currently has three post-graduate agreements with universities in Hungary, Ireland and Poland.

During the academic year 2020/21, the prevailing pandemic situation in Malta and abroad continued to impact on the Erasmus exchange. In fact, the number of students who went on Erasmus exchange was considerably lower than in previous years.

In Semester I, one third year student completed her Erasmus learning agreement at the University

of Essex, and in Semester II, two second year students completed their Erasmus learning agreements at the Hague University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands and at the University of Warsaw, Poland.

Erasmus Experience in the Hague, The Netherlands – Briana Mifsud

When I got the email that I was accepted to the Hague University in The Netherlands for my Erasmus exchange, I was over the moon. Many of those close to me voiced their concerns about the prospect of going abroad for an extended period mid-pandemic, but I had faith that the experience would still be a fruitful one.

Upon arriving, restrictions were quite strict, having to quarantine upon arrival and getting used to a 9pm curfew. The situation gradually improved and it was made easier by the friendships I made with fellow international students as we were all in the same boat. I truly believe that had it not been for the pandemic, we international students would not have united as much as we did. Living in an apartment where I had to do everything myself was a learning curve, but also allowed me a newfound independence. Another element of independence I enjoyed was found in the bike I rented, as it is a safe and common way for people to commute via bike in the Netherlands.

Some of the highlights of my Erasmus experience include travelling across The Netherlands, my first experience at a theme park, going on a canal cruise in The Hague and getting to see various paintings from renowned artists in museums across the country. Academically, I enjoyed how most of my study units had an assignment as a means of assessment, which usually entailed groupwork and enabled new connections with both home and exchange students. Apart from that, I liked how the university was ambitious in adding a new study unit which analysed how the pandemic impacted local communities on a European scale. For those students who are interested in going on Erasmus but are discouraged by the pandemic, I would still recommend going as you will learn more about

what you are capable of on your own and make lasting friendships from across the continent.



Ms Briana Mifsud

Fifth Year of the Research Seminar Series – Ideas in Brown Bags

The Institute for European Studies in cooperation with the Department of International Relations continued to organise *the Ideas in Brown Bag* seminar series. The central aim of the series is to present cutting edge research in the area of European and international politics and economics as well as to serve as a platform for doctoral students to present their ongoing research. The IBB is also structured in a way to enhance cross-departmental collaboration with the aim to extend this cooperation to other departments.

The seminar series is coordinated by Dr Jean Claude Cachia on behalf of the Institute. Dr Cachia is outreach coordinator.

In 2020/2021 seven seminars were held:

17 February 2021: Esther Beckeley

3 March 2021: Raylene Abdilla

14 April 2021: Prof James Sater

28 April 2021: Fabrizio Ellul

12 May 2021: Silvio Galea

12 May 2021: Alan Cordina

26 May 2021: Joseph Matthew Debono

Events – IES and EDIC (UoM)

Throughout the academic year a series of events and research initiatives were undertaken by the Institute. Due to COVID-19, most of the events had to be moved online. Each event was designed to target a varied audience and allowed an opportunity for the Institute to collaborate with a wide and diverse group of academic and student organisations. In particular, the Institute continued to work closely with the Department of International Relations, the Faculty of Social Wellbeing, the Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution, the European Studies Organisation, JEF as well as the European Commission's Representation in Malta and the European Parliament's Malta Office. The events are presented in chronological order.

Event to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Euro-Med Partnership (exhibition) – October 2020

Building on the success of our 2019 exhibition on the 25th anniversary of the Single Market, we had aimed to hold an exhibition marking the 25th anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The signing of the Barcelona Declaration in 1995 was a mile-stone in regional cooperation and has led to important developments in the Mediterranean and the exhibition's aim was to highlight the benefits and challenges of that relationship.

However, due to the impact of the COVID pandemic and the shift to online, virtual outreach, it became impossible to hold this event as a physical exhibition. For this reason the exhibition slides were transferred into an animated sequence of slides and uploaded on Youtube. The content of the slides were taken from the UfM's own website, with their permission, and their logos were used throughout. A news item was also uploaded on Newspoint to raise awareness of this online exhibition as well as social media posts. Below are the opening slides from the online exhibition.



The Barcelona Process was launched in 1995 with the aim of strengthening relations between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean countries. This expression of good faith and the recognition that closer ties were in everyone's interest would later lead to the creation of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

During these 25 years, hundreds of initiatives have served as examples of this commitment in action. From large scale international projects to local initiatives, a consolidated network of cooperation has gradually developed and directly impacted the lives of millions of citizens.

(The text and images for this slide show are taken from the UfM's website marking 25 years of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, available at: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/25bcnprocess/>)

Debating Democracy Workshop – November 2020

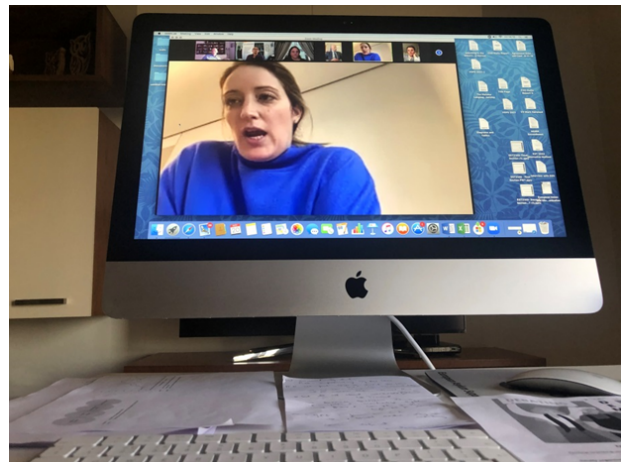
On 20th November the Institute for European Studies, the Department of International Relations within the Faculty of Arts and the European Parliament's Liaison Office (EPLO) in Malta organised a half-day Training Workshop on Debating Democracy. The event took place online with the aim to provide training to young people in debating skills as well as a forum for applying those skills through an online discussion of democracy.

The event was opened by Mr Mario Sammut (Head of EPLO in Malta) who introduced the keynote speakers, Dr Roberta Metsola, First Vice-President of the European Parliament and Ms Laura Smillie, a policy analyst within the Commission's Joint Research Centre. The keynote speeches were followed by interventions by Dr Anna Khakee (Department of International Relations), Dr Mark Harwood (Institute for European Studies) and Ms Elaine Cordina

(European Parliament Liaison Office). After providing the context for the ensuing debate, Patrick Psalia of PsyPotential gave a presentation on debating skills. 10 young people participated, the majority being University of Malta students and the workshop concluded with an informed and lively debate centred on the potential of social media to help or harm democracy.



Poster of the event

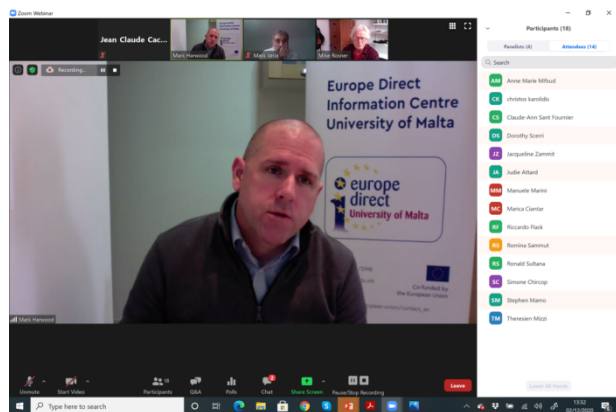


Vice-President of the EP and EPP MEP Roberta Metsola addressing the event

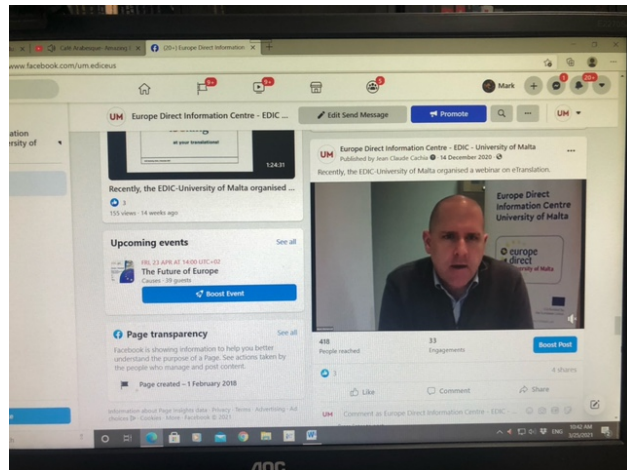
e-Translation Workshop – December 2020

On 2 December 2020 the institute for European Studies organised a webinar on the eTranslation tool available to university employees. Organised in collaboration with the European Commission's Representation to Malta, Mr Mark Vella of the Representation Office explained the tool and how to register. The eTranslation tool is cutting edge automatic translation technology which allows

automatic translations into all official EU languages as well as Icelandic, Norwegian and, increasingly, global languages such as Russian and Chinese. This allows language pairs in excess of 500 variations. In addition to Mr Vella's presentation, Mr Mike Rosner of the UoM spoke about the collection of data. Over 20 participants were present and the webinar was recorded so that it could be viewed online.



Dr Harwood opening the online event



The event was live-streamed on Facebook

The Implications of Brexit in the post-transition Phase – December 2020

On December 3rd, at the Valletta Campus of the University of Malta, a public talk was held to discuss the implications of Brexit as the post-transition phase came to an end.

The event was moderated by Dr Anna Khakee and the speakers were:

- Dr Mark Harwood on the implications for Malta
- Dr Valentina Cassar on the implications for CFSP
- Dr Omar Grech on the implications for Northern Ireland
- Prof Roderick Pace on the general impact

The event was organised by the EDIC in collaboration with the Department of International Relations and the Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution. The event was streamed online via the Conflict Resolution Facebook page and that of the EDIC and the IES.



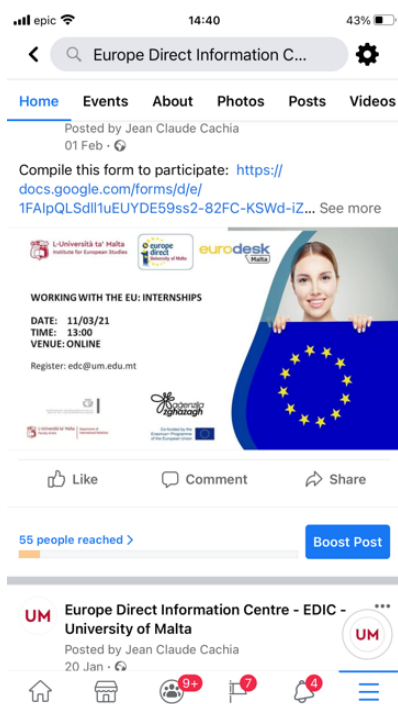
Poster for the event



Dr Mark Harwood and Dr Anna Khakee speaking at the event

EU Careers and Internship workshop – March 2021

Organised by the Institute in collaboration with the Department of International Relations, the Maltese Permanent Representation to Brussels and Agenzija Zaghzagħ, the workshop was an opportunity to inform students of the career opportunities with the EU as well as the internship opportunities available to Maltese nationals. The event was opened by the EDIC manager and also included presentations by the Dr Joanna Drake, Deputy Director General, as well as the EU Career’s Ambassador, Ms Bernice Bonello. Presentations were given by Eurodesk as well as the Permanent Representation.



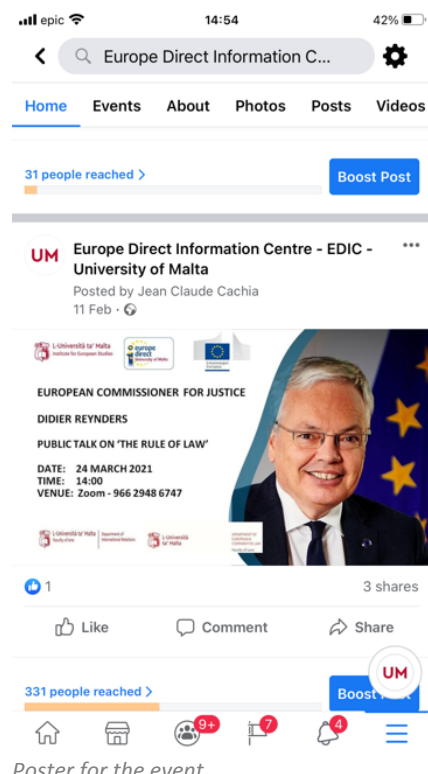
Poster for the event

Public Talk with Commissioner Reynders on ‘the Rule of Law’ – March 2021

The Institute for European Studies together with the Representation of the European Commission in Malta and the Department of International Relations as well as the Department of European and Comparative Law, organised a webinar with the European Commissioner for Justice, Didier Reynders on 24 March 2021. The topic was Rule of Law. The event was very well attended and

included over 130 participants, including several ambassadors. The event was opened by Dr Harwood followed by a note of welcome from the Head of the Representation, Dr Elena Grech, as well as the Chair of the Institute and Pro-Rector, Prof Carmen Sammut.

Commissioner Reynders engaged in a lively Q&A with students on the topic of rule of law but also included reference to the need for regulation in the area of Artificial Intelligence as well as the infringement action taken against Malta in terms of the investor programme for citizenship scheme.



Poster for the event

Integrated Democratic Europe Simulation, JEF Malta – April 2021

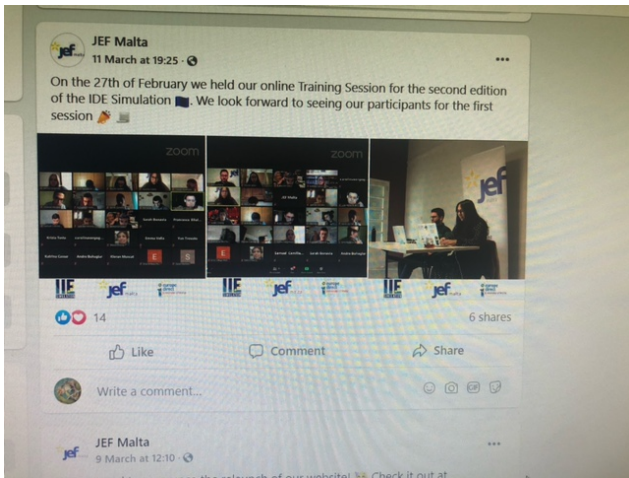
In March and April 2021 JEF Malta (Young European Federalists) organised an Integrated Democratic Europe Simulation which aimed to be a youth-led simulation for youths. The event was preceded with a training session in December 2020 and a mock simulation in February 2021 with the 3 simulation events being held on 13 March, 10 April and concluding with a closing

ceremony on 24 April 2021. Each session sought to simulate a negotiating session within the EU with the first covering 'our European identity', the second 'our public health' and the third, 'our digital future'. The event was co-organised and co-funded by the EDIC. Below are photos from the online events and the closing ceremony.

Dr Harwood opened each of the formal sessions and gave an overview of the Europe Direct Network as well as the Conference on the Future of Europe.

the evening on two concurrent days and involved 6 panels where researchers presented a breakdown of their work on LGBTIQ themes and was organised in cooperation with the EDIC, MGRM and the Human Rights Directorate within the Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance.

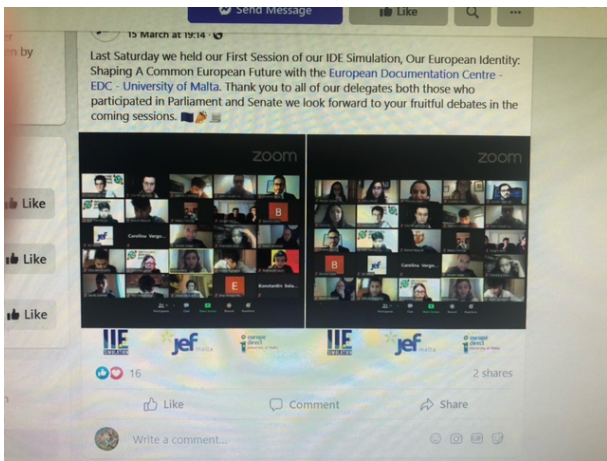
The event was opened by the European Commissioner for Equality on the first day and by Dr Harwood on the second. Dr Harwood spoke about the Conference on the Future of Europe.



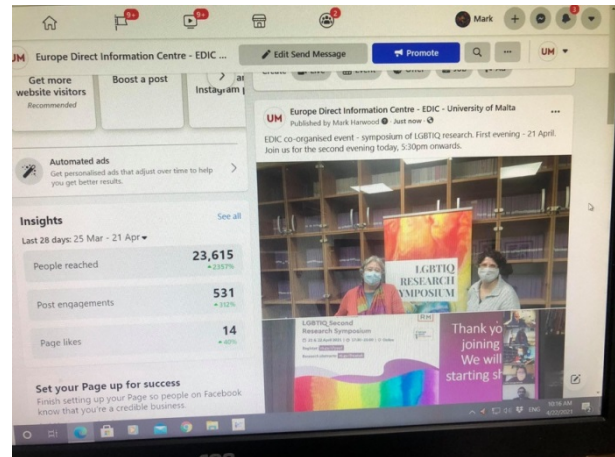
Screenshot of social media post showing the event



Poster for the event



Screenshot of social media post showing the event



Screenshot of social media post showing the event

Second LGBTIQ Research Symposium – April 2021

On 21 and 22 April the Institute sponsored the LGBTIQ Symposium organised by the Department of Gender and Sexualities. The event took place in

Roundtable discussion on the future of Europe – April 2021

On 23 April 2021 the EDIC hosted a roundtable discussion on the future of Europe, in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Bringing together 3 eminent academics from

across Europe, the aim was to discuss various aspects of the conference and the way forward for the EU.

The guest speakers were:

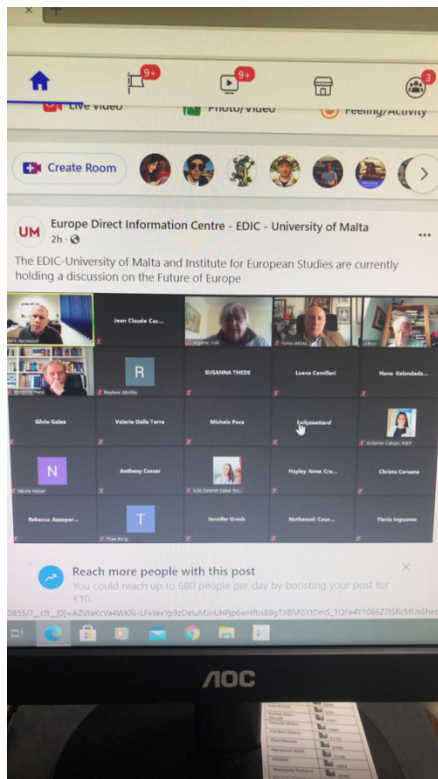
Prof Fulvio Attina of the University of Catania
 Prof Edward Moxone-Brown of the University of Limerick

Prof Roderick Pace of the University of Malta

The event also comprised a Q&A from the students present as well as the general public.



Poster for the event



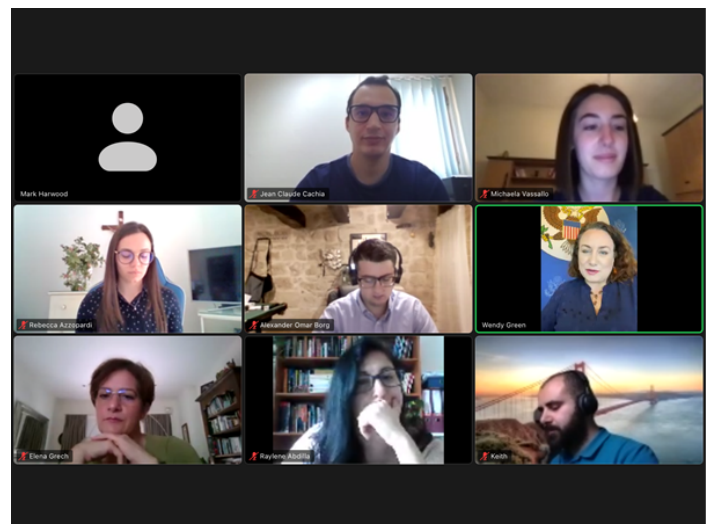
Screenshot of social media post showing the event

The Evolution of US-EU Relations – April 2021

On 30 April the Institute for European Studies organised an online discussion of EU-US relations post-Trump. The event was organised in conjunction with the Department of International Relations and the student groups ESO (European Studies Organisation) and MIRSA (Malta International Relations Student Association). The event comprised a panel of eminent experts in the area and included Dr Elena Grech (Head of the EC Representation to Malta), Prof Roderick Pace (Institute for European Studies), Dr Valentina Cassar (Department of International Relations) and the US Chargé d’Affaires, Gwendolyn “Wendy” Green.



Poster for the event



Screenshot of participants

Publications and Activities of Institute Academics

Dr Mark Harwood



Dr Mark Harwood is Director of the Institute for European Studies and Senior Lecturer in European Comparative Politics. As part of his work as Director, Dr Harwood oversees all degree programmes and chairs all internal boards of the Institute including

the Boards of Study and the PhD Committee. Dr Harwood coordinates the undergraduate degrees directly and coordinates the various elements that constitute these programmes, in conjunction with Dr Thede (exam and thesis coordinator), Dr Catania (placement and Erasmus coordinator) as well as other colleagues. He teaches EST 1030, EST 2140, EST 2234 and EST 2236 on the undergraduate programme and EST 5070 and EST 5080 on the MA programme. In 2020/2021 he supervised 6 undergraduate students and 2 MA students as well as being principal supervisor on the PhD of Silvio Galea.

During the academic year 2020/2021 Dr Harwood published the following articles:

HARWOOD, M. (2021). 'Europeanization and Language: the impact of EU language status on Maltese', *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, pp. 1-14.

Harwood, M. (2021). 'Malta : bucking the trend - how Malta turned its back on Euroscepticism' in M. Kaeding, J. Pollak & P. Schmidt (Eds.), *Euroscepticism and the future of Europe* (pp. 97-100). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

Harwood, M. (2020). 'From Euroscepticism to Euro-enthusiasm : how Malta weathered the

Eurozone crisis', *South European Society and Politics*, 1-22.

DOI: 10.1080/13608746.2020.1746542.

Cachia, J. C., Ellul, F., Harwood, M., & Sammut, C. (2020). 'Malta and the 2019 EP elections – maximising popular engagement with “Europe”', *Review of Economics and Political Science*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1108/REPS-02-2020-0032>

The following articles have been reviewed and are awaiting publication:

Harwood, M. (2021). 'Solidarity as the Small State Mantra for Malta's EU Membership', in M. Kaeding, J. Pollak & P. Schmidt (Eds.), *European Solidarity in Action and the Future of Europe*, Springer, Cham.

Harwood, M (2021). 'The Parliamentary Administration of Malta: the Parliament of Malta' in T. Christiansen, E. Griglio and N. Lupo (Eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Parliamentary Administrations*, Routledge, UK.

Harwood, M. (2021). 'Malta and the Benefits of Centralised Politics', in M. Jensen, M. Kluth and K. Lynggaard (Eds.) *Governments Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic*, Palgrave, UK.

The following articles are under review:

Harwood, M. (2022) 'Adjusting to the 'new normal': How Malta is coping with Brexit'. Part of a Special Edition of the *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, edited by L. Ferreira-Pereira.

Harwood, M. (2022) 'Malta-Russia Relations and the Libyan Civil War', M. Kaeding, J. Pollak & P. Schmidt (Eds.), *EU-Russia Relations and the Future of Europe*, Springer, Cham.

In terms of research networks and academic collaboration:

Dr Harwood is the Institute's representative on the European University of the Seas network based within the University of Malta.

Dr Harwood is the MC member of the Cost Action CA20123 which will study the Intergovernmental

Coordination from Local to European Governance. The action should run for 3 years.

Dr Harwood is the Maltese delegate of the BLUE's Scientific Council. Blue is a new publication by the Groupe d'études géopolitiques, the independent research centre and think tank behind the journal [Le Grand Continent](#). BLUE is designed as a new publication providing the public with open-access, high-quality analyses of electoral and political dynamics at regional, national and EU levels.

Dr Harwood is a reviewer for the *Journal of Politics and Law*, the Canadian Centre of Science and Education.

Outside of University, Dr Harwood is a member of the Management Board of the Commonwealth Equality Network. Dr Harwood sits on the Management Board as the Europe Regional Representative.

In 2020/2021 Dr Harwood participated in the following conferences:

IPSA Conference, 26th World Conference of Political Science, 10-15 July 2021, Lisbon (online). Dr Harwood participated as part of the panel 'Brexit and the coping strategies of small European states', Panel LOC02.02 convened by Dr Raimundo. Dr Harwood presented the paper 'Small, Neutral and Mediterranean: the impact of Brexit on Malta'.

Dr Harwood attended the Union for the Mediterranean's 'Women4Mediterranean' online conference which was held from 16 to 20 November.

Dr Harwood attended the Portuguese TEPSA Pre-presidency conference which was held online on 26/27 November. The Conference was organised by TEPSA and the Portuguese Institute of International Relations.

Dr Harwood attended the High-Level Interdisciplinary Conference on THE FUTURE OF EUROPE, Bruges on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 January 2021. Organised by the European Legal Studies Department and the European Political and Governance Studies Department of the

College of Europe, together with the European Law Journal, the event was held online.

Dr Harwood attended the online workshop organised by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies at LUISS University on the topic 'Parliamentary administrations in comparative perspective', held on 12 February 2021.

Dr Harwood participated in the TEPSA Pre-presidency Conference which was held online on 17/18 June and which was organised by the Centre of International Relations, University of Ljubljana.

Dr Harwood participated in the EISA Conference, the 14th Pan-European Conference on International Relations which took place online from 13-17 September 2021.

In addition to the various events organised and chaired by Dr Harwood and listed within the section above under events, Dr Harwood was also involved in the following events:

Dr Harwood chaired a webinar organised by the European Commission's Representation in Malta to discuss the follow-up to the State of the Union Speech, 'The State of the Union – Looking Forward'. The Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Dr Elena Grech, Head of the European Commission Representation in Malta and German Ambassador Walter Haßmann, discussed the main thrusts of the SOTEU speech within the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe. The online debate was held on 16 November and was chaired and moderated by Dr Harwood.

Dr Harwood was appointed by the Rector to form part of the Stakeholder Committee of MEDAC as part of its Periodic Programme Review. The first meeting took place on 4 March.

Dr Harwood was appointed by the Rector to participate in the interview panel for a new academic member of staff at MEDAC. The interviews took place on 24 March 2021.

As part of the TEPSA Explainers, a series of online clips explaining recent developments in European

politics coordinated by the Trans-European Policy Studies Association, Dr Mark Harwood featured as part of the series, explaining Maltese Euroscepticism. The clip can be seen at the following link:

<https://www.tepsa.eu/watch-euroscepticism-in-malta-mark-harwood-tepsa-explainers/>

Dr Harwood also participated in the second LGBTIQ research symposium, held online on 21 and 22 April. Organised by the Department for Gender and Sexualities, the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, the Ministry for Justice, Equality and Governance, MGRM and the Institute's EDIC. Divided into 6 panels, Dr Harwood chaired the second panel dealing with Ageing and Gay men. Dr Harwood also opened the second day of the symposium.

On 15 May, Dr Harwood gave a public speech as part of the series of events organised by LGBTIQ+ Gozo in the context of IDAHOBIT. Dr Harwood discussed the EU's contribution to the fight against discrimination and the diffusion of LGBT rights.

Professor Roderick Pace



In the academic year 2020-21, Professor Pace continued to lead the Institute's Ph.D. programme. He also served as a member of the Board of the Institute for European Studies and the Board of the Islands and

Small States Institute (ISSI). He continued as a member of the editorial team of the Journal South European Society and Politics published by Routledge and was a member of the editorial board of the open source Small States & Territories (SST) journal published by the Islands and Small States Institute of the University of Malta. He taught a number of study-units and supervised dissertations on the Bachelor and

Master's degrees in European Studies courses offered by the Institute, continued to supervise and co-supervisor three Ph.D. students. He also taught a course on the Institutions of the EU at the University Gozo Campus and taught on the MA of the ISSI. Prof Pace sat on examining boards of other faculties/institutes as requested. Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, he maintained links with Euromesco, the network of Euro-Mediterranean Security Institutes of which the Institute has been a member since its inception and with the Trans-European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) of which the Institute is also a member. He participated remotely in a video-conference on the New EU Agenda for the Mediterranean organized in Tunis organized by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) on 22 April 2021.

Professor Pace joined other members of the academic staff of the Institute and colleagues to participate in panels which discussed several important themes on European integration via video-conferencing. On the 23 April 2021, he participated in a panel on the Future of Europe Chaired by the Director Mark Harwood and which included Professors Edward Moxon-Browne from the University of Limerick and Neill Nugent from the University of Manchester Metropolitan.

He blind refereed several academic articles for international academic journals.

Professor Pace authored two articles in the newsletter "InDepth" published by the University of Nicosia.

Pace R., (2020) "COVID-19 SHOOK SOCIETY BUT NOT THE POLITICAL SYSTEM", July, at https://cceia.unic.ac.cy/wp-content/uploads/IN_DEPTH_2020_17-4.pdf

Pace R., (2021) "THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: WHAT NEXT?" March, at https://cceia.unic.ac.cy/wp-content/uploads/IN_DEPTH_2021_18-2.pdf Publications

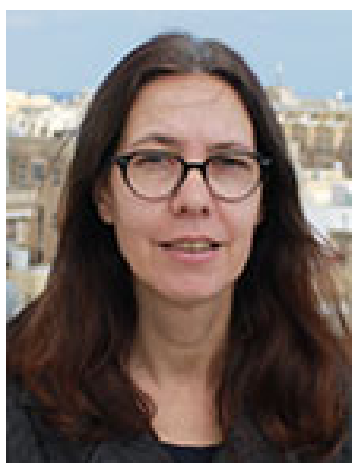
PACE, R., 2021. "Immigration-Integration: A New Opportunity for the EU?" in T. JOENSEN and I.

TAYLOR, eds., *Small States and the European Migrant Crisis: Politics and Governance*. Palgrave-Macmillan, pp. 43-66.

PACE, R., 2021. "Malta: A Janus Faced Migration and Integration Policy" in T. JOENSEN and I. TAYLOR, eds., *Small States and the European Migrant Crisis: Politics and Governance*. Palgrave-Macmillan, pp. 133-163.

Pace, R., 2020. "Analizzare l'eccezione: Malta" in Leonardo Morlino and Sottilotta Cecilia E., *La Crisi dell' Eurozona e l' Europa del Sud: un' analisi Comparata*. Il Mulino, Bologna, pp.117-142.

Dr Susanna Thede



Dr Susanna Thede is a board member of the Institute's PhD committee and the Institute Board. She taught seven study units at the Institute and supervised 2 MA and 5 BA students in the last year. She is actively engaged in the

international research community in her field of specialization: In the 2020/2021 academic year, she presented her research (online) in the well-renowned European Economic Association and International Economic Association conferences. She is a member of the European Economic Association (EEA) and the Forum for Research in International Trade (FREIT). Dr Thede is a research associate at the Örebro University School of Business in Sweden. She regularly acts as a referee for international academic outlets including *International Trade Journal*, *Open Economies Review*, *Review of Development Economics*, *Review of International Economics and Finance*, *Southern Economic Journal*, and *World Economy*. Her work is listed on ORCID, Google Scholar, Research Gate and Publons.

Dr Thede works in many collaborative projects. Together with Oliver Lorz, Professor of

International Economics at RWTH Aachen University, she is working on a revise and resubmit of an article for *Journal of Development Economics* (Academic Journal Guide Ranking: 3), which is the top international academic outlet in its field. The project provides novel insights on the role of aid for developing country tariff setting in GATT/WTO negotiations. A recent WP publication of this research can be found in the FREIT series (Tariff Overhang and Aid: Theory and Empirics, FREIT Working Paper series, No. 1743, November 2020). Together with Patrik Karpaty, Associate Professor at Örebro University School of Business, she has finalised work in a project investigating how multinational enterprises learn and adapt from investing in corrupt markets. A recent WP publication of this research is provided in the ORU series (The Effect of Corrupt Market Experience on FDI: Evidence from Swedish Manufacturing Enterprises, Örebro University School of Business Working Paper 4/2021). The research is under review for the well-renowned international academic outlet *Journal of Comparative Economics* (Academic Journal Guide Ranking: 3). Another project underway is work on the trade effect on institutional quality, which was initiated with UoM research seed funding and is at completion stage. She has asserted UoM seed funding for the project *The Trade Effect of EU Membership: A Meta-Analysis* (EUSRPO2; EUSRPO2-21) and ERASMUS+ funding for collaboration with Institute for International Trade at University of Adelaide.

The Institute for European Studies and the University of Malta has undergone rapid adjustment to pertain educational objectives during the COVID-19 outbreak. Dr Thede has worked in her various roles to facilitate this transition. In particular, she has ensured to be in close contact and communication with staff and students and organised her work commitments to adjust to the online environment. In particular, she has taught her study units interactively on zoom and engaged the students in different ways to stimulate active learning. A central addition has been to add feedback on students' written work as an integrated learning component during the semester.

Dr Stefano Moncada



Dr Moncada, delivers lectures on the following topics within the BA and MA programmes: 'Research Methodology and Writing Skills (EST2229); Development Studies and the EU (EST2210); Sustainable

Development and the EU (EST3201); EU Development Policy (EST5460); The European Union and Climate Change (EST5520). Dr Moncada coordinates the study unit EST2229, and also offers some teaching hours to other Faculties, Institutes and Centres, delivering on topics linked to his expertise, that is EU development policy and climate change. Dr. Moncada also acts as the representative at the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FEMA), reviewing all the applications submitted by students from the Institute for European Studies.

Dr Moncada conducted research in the area of EU development policy and climate change, with a focus on Small Island Developing States. He continued his multi-annual project entitled 'Building resilience to climate-sensitive risks in vulnerable communities of small island states', with fieldwork, temporarily suspended due to Covid-19, in the Mauritius and Kiribati. This project aims to identify risks from climate change, and possible coping strategies that could be adopted in a small island state context. There isn't sufficient knowledge about the relationship between climate change impacts and development in small island developing states, especially the effects of extreme weather events on livelihoods. A mixed methods approach, inclusive of participatory focus groups, household surveys, and econometric analysis, is being adopted simultaneously in several SIDS in order to assess vulnerabilities of coastal communities, and to profile actions that may strengthen resilience, thereby generating evidence to inform relevant policy, especially at EU level. To this end a series

of three papers, co-authored, were submitted to international specialized journals and are, at the moment of writing, under review, including WIREs and Small States and Territories.

What follows is a brief summary of the research activities (conferences, workshops, seminars) attended by Dr Moncada:

Attended the Executive Committee of the (ExCo) meeting of the European Association of Development and Training Institutes (EADI), on the 11th December 2020, and on the 6th May 2021, hosted by the Secretariat online.

Presented a paper entitled 'Building a Sustainable Island Futures project: The Process and the Results', at an online conference held by the International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA) on the 16th of June 2021;

Attended and chaired a special session entitled "'Climate-resilient development and social justice: squaring the circle?'" in occasion of the 2021 EADI International conference 'Solidarity, Peace and Social Justice.

Dr Moncada, during the period October 2020 May 2021, published the following material:

Cauchi, J.P., Bambrick, H., Correa-Velez, I., Moncada, S. 2021. 'White flour, white sugar, white rice, white salt': Barriers to achieving food and nutrition security in Kiribati. *Food Policy*. Volume 101, 102075. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2021.102075>

Cauchi, J.P., Bambrick, H., Moncada, S. et al. Nutritional diversity and community perceptions of health and importance of foods in Kiribati: a case study. *Food Sec.* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-020-01128-6>

Dos Santos, M., Moncada, S., Elia, A., Grillakis, M., Hilmi, N. 2020 Development. In: *Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report*. In Cramer, W., Guiot, J., Marini, K. (eds.) Union for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu, UNEP/MAP, Marseille, France, 23pp, in press

https://www.medecc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MedECC_MAR1_5_1_Development.pdf

MedECC 2020 Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report [Cramer, W., Guiot, J., Marini, K. (eds.)] Union for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu, UNEP/MAP, Marseille, France, 34pp, in press. https://www.medecc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MedECC_MAR1_SPM_ENG.pdf

Briguglio, M., and Moncada, S. (2020). Malta, COVID-19. Island Insight Series, no 1, November 2020, University of Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance, University of Prince Edward Island Institute of Island Studies and Island Innovation. <https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/handle/123456789/63472>

Briguglio, L., Byron, J., Moncada, S., & Veenendaal, W. (2020). Handbook of Governance in Small States. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429061356>

Cauchi, J. P., Moncada, S., Bambrick, H., & Correa-Velez, I. (2020). Coping with environmental hazards and shocks in Kiribati: Experiences of climate change by atoll communities in the Equatorial Pacific. Environmental Development, 100549. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envdev.2020.100549>

Dr Moncada also undertaken reviews for the following peer-reviewed journals: Sustainability; Climate; Energies; Disasters; Climatic Change; International Journal for Environmental Research and Public Health; Environments; International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management; Area; Science of the Total Environment. For further information access the following website <https://publons.com/author/702745/stefano-moncada#profile>

Dr Moncada is the focal point of the Climate Change Platform of the University of Malta,

representing the Institute for European Studies, and coordinating research and communication activities in field of climate change. Further information can be accessed from the following website: <https://www.um.edu.mt/islands/climate> Dr Stefano Moncada has been selected as a lead author of the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) in 2016, and in 2020 promoted to Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) for the chapter on development and economic impacts. The MedECC is working to finalise the first MedECC assessment report (MAR1), moving toward an improved scientific assessment of climate and environmental change and their consequences in the Mediterranean Basin. The MedECC is supported by a series of institutions and international organizations, among which the United Nations Mediterranean Action Plan, the Union for the Mediterranean, the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. More information is available at the following website <http://www.medecc.org/>

Dr Moncada continued to represent the Institute for European Studies in the European Association of Development and Training Institutes (EADI), co-convenor of the working group 'Climate-Resilient Development and Transformational Change', under which he has been organizing a series of online webinars in preparation for the upcoming 2021 EADI general conference organized in The Hague.

Dr Jean Claude Cachia



Dr Jean Claude Cachia was employed by the University of Malta in October 2015. During the academic year 2020/2021 he was responsible

for five modules including European Security, Political Parties in Europe, Small States and the EU, Research Methodology and Writing Skills

(Undergrad level) and Research Methods (at Masters Level).

With regards to the administrative work, he was the Dissertation seminar coordinator and Outreach Coordinator. He organized the dissertation seminar for our final year students and organized various seminars and lectures throughout the academic year. These included the IBB seminars which the Institute for European Studies organises with the Department for International Relations and a seminar on the EU-US relations which was held in April 2021. This was co-organized with the Department of International Relations, European Studies Organization and Malta International Relations Studies Association. He has also helped in organizing a seminar on E-Translation which was held in December 2020, a seminar on EU Internships held in March 2021 and a seminar with the EU Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders which was also held in March 2021.

As part of his research, he presented two conference papers with Mr Andre Debattista titled "Evaluating the discourse used by the President of the European Commission during the COVID-19 pandemic" (ECPR 14th General Conference) and "The concept of solidarity and the European Commission: an evaluation of the political discourse with reference to the COVID-19 pandemic and irregular migration" (Political Studies Association Annual International Digital Conference, 2021). For the the first paper, Dr Cachia and Mr Debattista were also given the possibility to present our research at the Free University of Brussels. Dr Cachia also published a paper on the Europeanization of the COVID-19 pandemic response and the EU's solidarity with Italy on the Contemporary Italian Politics journal. He is currently writing a paper with Mr Mario Vassallo on civil society in Malta.

Dr Moira Catania



Moira Catania lectures in economics and European economic integration. During the academic year 2020/21, she lectured the following study units to undergraduate students:

Introductory Micro-Economics for European Studies, Introductory Macro-Economics for European Studies, Economics of European Integration and European Economic and Monetary Union. She also co-ordinated and lectured in the study unit: Economic and Financial Issues in the Euro Zone, to the Institute's Masters students. She supervised four students for their undergraduate dissertation and is currently supervising one student for her post-graduate dissertation. She is also co-supervising one student for her post-graduate research degree (Master of Arts in European Integration Studies).

During the academic year, Moira Catania continued to coordinate the Institute's placement programme as well as the Institute's outgoing Erasmus student exchange. Through the placement programme, the Institute's students have the opportunity to gain relevant work experience in the area of European studies with various entities which are partners in the Institute's placement programme. During 2020/21, Erasmus student exchange continued to be impacted by the prevailing COVID-19 situation and only three students completed their Erasmus learning agreement during the year. These students were provided with the necessary academic support during their exchange programme.

During the year, Moira Catania's research work focused on developing journal articles from the Chapters of her PhD thesis. These articles are being produced together with her PhD supervisors, Dr Mark Baimbridge and Dr Ioannis Litsios. In June, the article, titled, 'Legislative budgetary power and fiscal discipline in the Euro

Area' has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management. Work on the other article on different forms of fiscal governance in the Euro Area is currently ongoing.

During the year, Moira Catania also continued to follow developments in the Euro Area, particularly regarding economic governance. In February, she attended a one-day online conference on 'High Debt, Low Rates and Tail Events: Rules-Based Fiscal Frameworks under Stress', organised by the European Fiscal Board. She has also continued to follow closely economic and fiscal developments in Malta, in particular the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic response of both the Maltese government as well as at a European level.

Mr Andre Debattista



Throughout the academic year 2020/21, Mr Debattista was MA coordinator, thus coordinating various administrative tasks in relation to the

two MA programmes offered at the Institute for European Studies. In addition to this, he delivered lectures in connection with three study units EST2234 - Malta in the European Union, EST3207 - Agenda-Setting in the European Union, and EST3213 - Identity and Culture in Europe. Throughout this time, Mr Debattista has also been working on his Doctorate.

Together with Dr Jean Claude Cachia, he presented two conference papers titled "Evaluating the discourse used by the President of the European Commission during the COVID-19 pandemic" (ECPR 14th General Conference) and "The concept of solidarity and the European Commission: an evaluation of the political discourse with reference to the COVID-19 pandemic and irregular migration" (Political Studies Association Annual International Digital Conference, 2021). In relation to the first paper,

they were invited to guest lecture and present their research at the Free University of Brussels.

In April 2021, he took part in the events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the self-government constitution organised by the National Library of Malta. Mr Debattista delivered a talk, which is available online, titled "The Birth pangs of Statehood: Self-Government and Dominion Status in the British Empire (1919 - 1926)." In addition, together with Mevrick Spiteri and in collaboration with the Public Works Department and the National Archives, he coordinated the virtual display on a proposed new Parliament building submitted in 1928. Both will be published in conference proceedings in the forthcoming year.

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Dissertations submitted in 2020/2021 by IES Students

Undergraduate

Attard Mildred
EU Membership and Malta's Healthcare System

Attard Zoya
An Assessment of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Support in Malta

Azzopardi Rebecca
The Rise of Far-Right Parties in Germany and Italy

Bajada Matthew
A Comparative Analysis of Integration Policies for Asylum Seekers in EU Countries

Borg Thea
The Development of LGBTI Rights in the EU: the Case of Malta and Estonia

Camilleri Luana
The Adoption of the Euro by Croatia

Camilleri Rebecca
Towards a Circular Economy: Challenges and Opportunities facing Malta in Construction and Demolition Waste

Camilleri Zack
The Contribution of EU Mediterranean Countries
in Reaching the 2030 Climate and Energy
Framework Goals

Caruana Christa
The Cashless Society in the EU: a Comparative
Study Between Malta and Sweden

Cassar Katrina
The Economic and Financial Crisis in Spain: a
Gender Perspective of the Labour Market

Cauchi Nicholas
European Values and EU Identity

Cauchi Jones Nathanael
EU-China Trade and its Effect on the EU Economy

Cremona Hayley Anne
Gender Equality in the Work Place: a Comparative
Study between Italy and Finland

Curmi Miguel
The Techniques and Tools Used by Lobbyists with
Specific Reference to Intergroups within the
European Parliament

Deeley Alexander
Public Perceptions on Immigration in Malta

Dimech Dilan
The role of Small States in the Common Security
and Defence Policy

Farrugia Mariah
Irregular Migration and the Electoral Success of
Far-Right Political Parties in the EU

Fenech Michaela
Political Representation and Obstacles to Gender
Equality in EU Mediterranean States

Galea Maria Victoria
Trade Integration in the European Union: a Focus
on Malta and Cyprus

Galea Claire
On the Front Line of Europe's Borders: Malta's
Customs Department Enforcement Unit and the
EU's Security Challenges

Galea Gabriel Nicholas
The EU's Role in Helping Small States Deal with
Environmental Challenges

Grech Owen Michael
The Malta Labour Party's Approach Towards
Security in the Euro-Mediterranean Area

Haber Nicole
The Russian Minorities in the Baltic States

Inguanez Ylenia
The Framing of the EU During the Spring Hunting
and Divorce Referenda

Lomax Mariah
The Influence of MEPs on Maltese Political Parties

Marshall Sean-Jesmond
The Illicit Drug Trade in Malta and the Impact of
EU Membership

Micallef Claire
Promoting Female Entrepreneurship in the
European Union: a Focus on Malta

Mizzi Petra
Euro-sceptic Nationalism in the European Union: A
Study of Political Discourses on Migration

Montebello Amber
Maltese Civil Society and Policy Engagement in the
EU

Pavia Andrea
The EU's Approach on Succession: the Case of
Catalonia

Sammut Chantelle
The Application of Federalist Theories in EU
Treaties

Sammut Dale
Effects of Adopting the Euro - A Case Study of
Malta

Spiteri Brandon Matthias
The Implementation of the European Union
Climate Change Policies: a Case Study of Sweden
and Estonia

Tanti Jamie
The Contribution of the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds to the Sporting Sector: Evidence from Malta

Vassallo Sebastian Xavier
The Future of European Defense Cooperation

Xerri Annalise
Small States and the EU Counter-Terrorism Policy

Xerri Jurgen
Far-Right Ideology and European Integration in Malta

Xuereb Kelly
EU-UK Relations After the Brexit Vote

Spiteri Luke
The Contract of Employment: A European and Maltese Perspective

Teuma Matthew
Applying the Vulnerability and Resilience Framework to Brain Drain in the European Union: The Case of Cyprus and Malta

Vella Joseph Paul
Sustainable Tourism Development in the EU Mediterranean Region: A focus on Coastal Tourism in Malta

Postgraduate

Attard Kailyze
The Implications of the European Asylum System on Italy and Greece

Borg Clivert
Tourism Competitiveness in the EU Mediterranean Countries

Cassar Gabriel
The Europeanization of Maltese Interest Groups: A Comparison Between Business and Environmental Groups
Camilleri Emanuel
Nationalism and the Left Parties in Europe

Coster Benjamin Thomas
The European Union's Approach Towards Genocide

Ellul Adrian Dominic
The Europeanisation of Social Democratic Parties in Mediterranean States

Gauci Paul
The Increase of Far Right Parties' Support in Germany and Italy

Pace Jessica
EU Trade Relations and Climate Preservation

