

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**  
**Cottonera Resource Centre**

# **Administrative Report**

## **October 2016-September 2017**

## Contents

Introduction.....	4
Cottonera Resource Centre wins EPALE Award.....	5
Award Premju Kreattiv.....	6
European Voluntary Service 2016-2-MT01-KA105-015251.....	6
Donation of robots.....	7
Revision classes .....	8
Xjenza Mania STEAM 2017 .....	10
Robotics classes .....	17
Raising awareness on the lack of girls and women in STEM related subjects.....	17
Robotics for the children attending Tghanniqqa, a voluntary group .....	18
Law Clinic.....	19
Counselling .....	20
Taking the Law Clinic and Counselling to Valletta through Valletta 18.....	21
French Conversations .....	21
English language lessons for Female Migrants.....	22
Maltese language course for foreigners.....	22
Kids on Campus .....	22
L-Arti u l-Espressjoni fil-Kottonera.....	23
MCA course – An Introduction to the Internet.....	24
E-commerce and Digital Literacy .....	25
Italia Film Festival.....	26
University of the Third Age.....	26
Lifelong Learning Courses offered by the Directorate for Lifelong Learning, MEDE .....	27
French Film Festival.....	28
Prima Klassi.....	28
Qawsalla .....	29
Parents’ course, Senglea .....	29
Media.....	29
Visit by School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University .....	30
Setting up of a library at CRC.....	30
Meetings with representatives of different entities at the University of Malta.....	30

Strategy Meetings.....	31
Insurance and Occupational Health and Safety Risk Assessment .....	31
Lease Agreement.....	31
Community involvement .....	33
Meetings with other entities.....	35
European Voluntary Services falling under EUPA.....	35
Reports for National Reform Programme.....	36
Science in the City.....	36
Income generated .....	37

## **Introduction**

The year 2016-2017 marked the fifth year of the Cottonera Resource Centre's existence. During this academic year, the Centre continued its work within the community to encourage further education.

Dr. JosAnn Cutajar was the director. Dr. Cutajar will finish her term on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2017, and Dr. Katya de Giovanni will be the new director as from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2017. Dr. Cutajar took over when the CRC was in its infancy. Since then the services provided have increased. Dr. Cutajar worked hard to get the financial resources needed to help organize Revision Classes and Xjenza Mania. Other University of Malta entities were also approached to help organize courses and services. These included the University of the Third Age, Counselling and Law clinic sessions at the CRC. Human and financial resources were also accessed from outside the university as this report will demonstrate.

This year was devoted to consolidating the structure and services at the CRC. A number of meetings were held to ensure that the volunteers and University of Malta students offering their services offered at the CRC were covered by an insurance.

During this year the number of services increased. Some of these services will become available in other areas, namely Valletta. The library and audio-visual room in Room 5 were set up. Xjenza Mania classes were also carried out during the academic year.

Ms. Cassandra Sturgeon was appointed Project Coordinator from 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016 up to 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Mr. Daniel Pisani was appointed as laboratory officer from January 2017. Ms. Maria Fava, graduate trainee left at the end of December 2016.

For the academic year of 2016-2017 the board consisted of:

Chairperson:	Dr. Andreana Dibben
Director:	Dr. JosAnn Cutajar
Board Members:	Prof. Angela Abela
	Prof Simone Borg
	Prof. Peter Mayo
	Dr. Dione Mifsud
	Mr. Emile Vassallo
	Mr. Simon Sammut
	Dr. Noel Vella
	Dr. David Zammit

During this academic year the board met once twice between November and June. A number of strategic planning meetings involving the director and/or chairperson and/or board also took place on a number of occasions. The running of the centre, the creation of new projects, strategic

planning, finances as well as the running and implementation of projects were discussed during such meetings.

### **Cottonera Resource Centre wins EPALE Award**

The University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre won the EPALE Award (Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe) for outstanding community learning initiative in 2016. The ceremony was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2016. The Hon. Ian Borg, Parliamentary Secretary for EU funds and 2017 Presidency, presented the award.

During the pitch, the director described the University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre as a multidisciplinary centre which provides a systemic and multi-targeted approach, engaging the community, schools and the University. During the event, Dr. JosAnn Cutajar, Director of the Centre explained that the Centre provides outreach in the community by setting up diverse sites for learning while providing opportunities for the development of socially and culturally sensitive academic, research and teaching projects. She also explained that the courses offered at the resource centre draw people from all walks of life; from individuals at risk of poverty and social exclusion to those interested in furthering their skills and job mobility. Although a new initiative, the Centre is yielding positive results in terms of personal empowerment, active citizenship, employment mobility and leadership development.

<https://ec.europa.eu/epale/en/content/epale-awards-2016-malta>



## **Award Premju Kreattiv**

In April 2017 the Cottonera Resource Centre applied for the Premju Kreattiv award. The bid was to get 4000 euros in order to promote robotics among girls using drama. We liaised with Ms Laura Wyatt O’Keeffe and Marouska Bugeja to come up with a proposal. “The First Story” robotics participatory workshop is going to be a cross arts project that combines storytelling, robotics, performance and engineering. The funds will enable CRC to hold a series of workshops in 2017-2108 to encourage young women to engage with art and science to explore the question of identity and self-image. During these workshops the participants will be encouraged to explore female identity and the social expectations linked with this identity. Through active participation in robotics workshops the participants will create their own robots and programme them. This series of workshops encourages young women to challenge stereotypical female roles by providing training in robotics, a male dominated field. “The First Story” workshops employ a simple story structure that encourages participants to identify and problem-solve the challenges young women face on a daily basis. By engaging them in storytelling and drama, an art form more familiar to the participants, the participants will be encouraged to challenge the social expectations that females face.



## **European Voluntary Service 2016-2-MT01-KA105-015251**

In 2015-2016 CRC applied for funds to engage two volunteers from France to assist the Cottonera Resource Centre in its daily operations in 2016-17. Centru Tbexbix (PIC (946508638) was the coordinating organization, while CRC benefitted from 17,684.67 euros to help host these 2 volunteers. Carole-Ann Liege and Maggy Dago arrived at the end of October 2016. Mylene Pelade replaced Maggy Dago in June 2017.

The volunteers were selected from a pool of applicants who showed interest in volunteering at the CRC. The project was entitled *Education Through Life*. CRC took care of finding accommodation

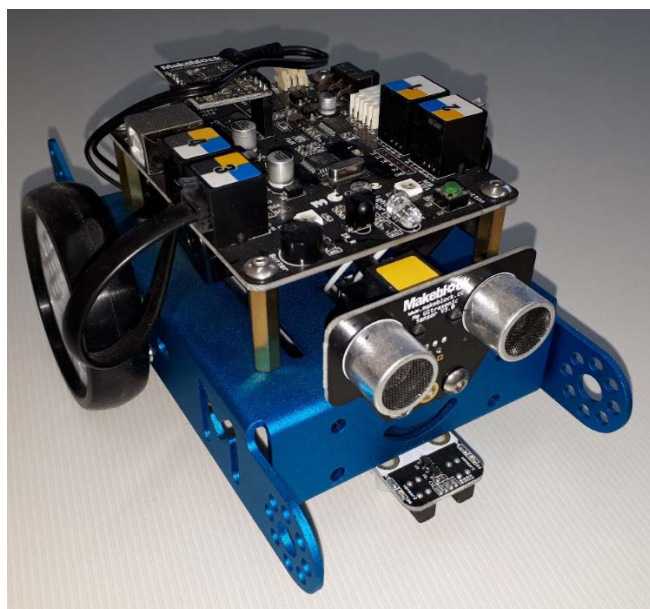
for the EVS volunteers; meeting them at the airport on their arrival; training them; providing linguistic help; liaising with Centru Tbexbix, EUPA, Finance Department, Controle-Z and Aeroven (sending organizations); assigning tasks; helping them create, promote and organize their tasks; and drawing up a Youth Pass for each volunteer at the end of their stay.



**Programme:** Erasmus+  
**Project title:** Education through life  
**Grant awarded:** 17,984.67 euros  
**Key Action:** KA1 - Learning Mobility of Individuals  
**Action Type:** KA105 - Youth mobility  
**Call Year:** 2016  
**Round:** 2  
**Start of Project:** 24/10/2016  
**End of Project:** 23/11/2017  
**Project Duration (months)** 13

### **Donation of robots**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 the director visited D Fab Studio director, Mr. Steve DeMicoli to find out what kind of robots they import. The company kindly donated two robots to be used during Xjenza Mania sessions.



## **Revision classes**

One of the main projects run at the centre consists of Revision Classes in Maltese, English, Mathematics, Design and Technology, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry. Revision Classes are for Form 4 and 5 students who aspire to sit for the MATSEC O-level examinations.

A call for part-time mentors was made through the Human Resources Department in October 2016, when four mentors were selected to conduct revision sessions in Maltese, English, Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry. These joined the team of four other mentors who had been recruited previously. The revision sessions were held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 16.00 and 19.00. Each session lasted one and a half hours per subject. The Form 4 students were divided into different classes according to the students' competence in the subject, with each class having one session of each subject per week. The following table shows the subjects being offered, name of the mentors teaching the subject and number of students who applied per subject. Each class did not contain more than 15 students.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
Maltese	Mr. Francesco Bonello Ms. Rebecca Cachia	31
English	Ms. Berta Schembri Ms. Carmen Muscat	34
Physics	Mr. Sam Agius	22
Mathematics	Mr. Brian Craus Mr. Sam Aguis	33
Biology & Chemistry	Ms. Diane Grech Scerri	5
Design & Technology	Mr. Christian Serpina	3

Every Wednesday Ms. Carmen Muscat held one-to-one English revision sessions with two students who needed individual attention.

On the 22nd of December a Christmas party was organized for the students attending Revision Classes. This was organized by Ms. Cassandra Sturgeon. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2017, the students were taken on a visit to Junior College and MCAST. This was done to help orient them with the different courses they can apply for once they leave secondary school. At the Junior College and MCAST we were taken around by vocational counsellors or youth worker. They explained the



courses available at these institutions and what type of qualifications were needed to apply for the courses the students who were present had in mind. Sixteen students came on this outing.

Two types of students attend the Revision Classes. The majority of these need help with one or more subjects. They are doing middling well in school. There are others who for one reason or another are struggling in school. They attend the CRC due to the relation they have formed with the mentors. The objective of these classes is to at least teach them the basic skills in the subjects they applied for. This type of students tend to apply for Mathematics, English and Maltese.

The director felt that to enable the mentors to carry out their work, they needed to form a relationship with the students. When the mentors did this, students were more likely to turn up for the bulk of the lessons. The director approached Prof Carmel Cefai who runs the Centre for Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health (CRES) and asked whether some form of training could be provided to the mentors to help them with their work during 2017-18 academic year.

This year the CRC offered students attending Revision Classes vocational counselling. Carole-Anne Liege, an EVS (European Voluntary Service) volunteer, held individual meetings with different students to find out which career paths they aspired for and they discussed alternative ways of attaining these goals. Maggy Dago, another EVS volunteer, discussed with them how to behave during job interviews, and the compartment they should adopt, especially the way they should dress for such an interview.

**Derivation of students:**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>
Marsascalea	9
Zabbar	17
Marsaxlokk	3
Birzebbuga	2
Vittoriosa	5
Fgura	7
Kalkara	1
Zejtun	2
Paola	3
Bormla	2
Tarxien	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>

## **Xjenza Mania STEAM 2017**

**Objective:** The objective of Xjenza Mania is to promote science through the arts. Maltese, English, Design and Technology, Drama and Lifeskills were used in conjunction with Integrated Science and Mathematics to focus on different scientific themes such as the weather; butterflies; light, colour and heat; movement; food as energy; water and waves. Technology and engineering were promoted through robotics and programming classes as well as the assembly of engineering kits. Another objective of Xjenza Mania was to bring together children from different walks of life, so that they can learn more about each other. Ten scholarships were offered to students attending St. Margaret's College. These students were chosen by the heads of schools.

**Entities involved:** Cottonera Resource Centre, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Dental Surgery, and St Margaret's College were involved in the organization of this summer school.

78 students attended Xjenza Mania STEAM Summer School. These were between the ages of 8-12 years. The CRC has the capacity of housing only 6 classes of not more than 15 students per class. This year the 2 EVS volunteers, and 2 student helpers aged 13+ years helped teachers with their work.

### **Students by locality and gender**

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Number</b>
Zabbar	21
Zejtun	1
Valetta	1
Mqabba	7
St Venera	2
Zurrieq	2
Xghajra	1
Kalkara	5
Fgura	1
Luqa	2
Tarxien	2
Cospicua	5
Kappara	1
Marsascala	11
Ghaxaq	2
Sta. Lucija	2
Qormi	1
M'Xlokk	4
Sliema	1
Msida	1
Senglea	2
Birgu	2

Mosta	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>43 Males</b>	<b>35 Females</b>

The students were divided into six different classes according to age. Overall the classes had an average of around 13 students per class. The average student attendance during Xjenza Mania STEAM was of 65 students per day. This was due to the fact that some parents opted to avail themselves of the summer holidays to take their children on holiday.

Class Atoms	12
Class Boron	12
Class Celsius	13
Class Degrees	14
Class Energy	13
Class Force	14
Total	78

Every day each class had three sessions of approximately one and a half hours each, with the exception of Wednesday/Thursday alternatively, when the students went on various outings organised by staff members. Outings were when possible linked to the topic being taught during that week.

### Topics and outings

Topic	Outing	
Weather	Malta National Aquarium	
Butterflies	Buskett	
Light, colour and heat	Mdina Glass	Aviation Museum
Movement	Esplora	
Food as energy	Junior College PBS	University of Malta – Electrical Engineering, Institute for Earth Systems
Water & Waves	Ghajn -Water Conservation Awareness Centre	Domvs Romana

### Buskett



**Chemistry Lab at Junior College – our host Dr. Noel Vella**



**PBS**



**Domvs Romana, Mdina**



## Ghajn Water Conservation Awareness Centre



## Experiments

Every Friday, students under the tutelage of Dr. Lourdes Farrugia came to carry out experiments dealing with that week's topic.

Experiments by students from the Faculty of Science



### Guest speakers

A number of guest speakers came to Xjenza Mania to share their knowledge with the students. These included:

**Prof Pule:** Every Friday Prof Pule visited Xjenza Mania to explain how the educational toys he has created, work. Two classes per week participated in these very interesting sessions.



**Mr. Ryan Scicluna:** came on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July to promote comic books written in Maltese.

**Prof. David Mifsud:** On the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, Prof. D. Mifsud explained the importance of bees in the ecosystem. The students had an interactive lesson with the professor and were introduced to the art of beekeeping and honey making.



**Dental Clinic conducted by staff and students from the Faculty of Dental Surgery:** Staff and dental students visited the centre on 2 occasions in July 2017. They started by holding sessions on the importance of maintaining dental hygiene. Students who had signed a consent form were given a dental checkup.



**Ms. Hili Micallef:** one of the parents who works with Heritage Malta, volunteered to conduct a session on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August with the students to show them the skills related with the art of restoration and conservation of paintings. They were given a lecture followed by a hands on session.



**Shotokan Karate Do Association:** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August some of the students who were attending classes on karate provided by this association came with teachers and students to demonstrate karate to the rest of the school. They demonstrated some of the karate moves they learnt/taught there and then conducted some hands on sessions with the students.



**Ms. Natasha Mallia and Mr. Tonna** brought some of the instruments used in land surveying to explain how they are used. They also discussed who can become a land surveyor and what type of work they can do. These speakers also had students attending Xjenja Mania.

Xjenja Mania ended on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. A short talent show was organized. During the show poems were recited, songs were sung, instruments were played and a play involving math magic was written and enacted by the students. The parents/relatives/guardians were then invited to visit different classes so that they could see what type of activities were carried out during Xjenja Mania.



## **Robotics classes**

Due to constant pressure from the parents who attended Xjenza Mania in summer 2016, a robotics class was organized in March of 2017. When the course advert was disseminated through the CRC Facebook page, 28 students applied. Two classes were held, one on Wednesday, and another on Thursday from 4 pm to 5.30 pm. Seven sessions were held from the 15<sup>th</sup> of March up to the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2017. Ms. Maggy Dago and Ms. Carole-Anne Liege (EVS) helped Mr. Carmel Mifsud and Daniel Pisani in the organization and management of these classes.

### **Number of students by locality and gender**

Locality	Number
Zabbar	8
Zejtun	1
Mqabba	2
Sta Venera	2
Zurrieq	3
Kalkara	3
Fgura	1
Marsascala	3
Sliema	2
Birkirkara	1
Burmarrad	1
Swieqi	1
TOTAL	28
18 Males	10 Females

When more boys and girls applied for this course, Ms. Dago worked with the students to promote science and robotics among girls. Ms. Dago worked with both boys and girls to help change the mentality that robotics are for boys. She created two videos on the topic.

Interview No. 2 - Our little robotic engineers.

<https://www.facebook.com/uom.crc/videos/vb.461864010552722/1493699480702498/?type=2&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/uom.crc/videos/vb.461864010552722/1493699480702498/?type=2&theater>

## **Raising awareness on the lack of girls and women in STEM related subjects**

In connection to this topic, namely the lack of girls and women in STEM related subjects, Ms. Maggy Dago (EVS) created a number of videos to raise awareness on this topics and uploaded them on the CRC Facebook page. These were:

1. Women and Science - Women graduates in science in Malta

<https://www.facebook.com/uom.crc/videos/vb.461864010552722/1369322329806881/?type=2&theater>

2. Women and Science – How are European women faring with regards to STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

<https://www.facebook.com/uom.crc/videos/vb.461864010552722/1357723414300106/?type=2&theater>

3. Women and Science – 5 ways to reduce the gap in gender in science

<https://www.facebook.com/uom.crc/videos/vb.461864010552722/1384712908267823/?type=2&theater>

4. Women and Science Interview No. 1

<https://www.facebook.com/uom.crc/videos/vb.461864010552722/1461327633939683/?type=2&theater>

### **Robotics for the children attending Tghanniqqa, a voluntary group**

A robotic session was also held for children attending Tghanniqqa, an NGO, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. This session was organized thanks to the input of Dr. Noel Vella.





## Law Clinic

The law clinic continued to operate at the Cottonera Resource Centre. During this academic year twelve law students from the Advocacy Skills course participated in the project. The students worked as a pair, with each team dealing on average with three cases. Each team fell under the supervision of a practicing lawyer.

At the beginning of the 2016-7 academic year, the centre was approached by 43 potential clients between the months of October 2016 and September 2017. The majority of the clients who called needed help with family related issues (23), rent (15), housing (1), child pornography (1), asylum (1), transport (1) and public registry (1). Due to the limited number of students working in the legal clinic, it was not always possible to help all the clients. Some were referred to lawyers who offered pro bono services when the client needed immediate help.

The Law Clinic was coordinated with the help of Dr. Kurt Scerri, who fell under the supervision of Dr. David Zammit. The Advocacy students who participated in this project included among others:

- Ilaria Aquilina	- Carmel Gatt
- Omar Caruana	- Alison Wadge
- Jessica Pace	- Francesco Refalo
- Naomi Cachia	- Krista Ciantar

### Law clinic sessions

13 January	2 <sup>nd</sup> June
1 February	9 <sup>th</sup> June
17 February (2 sessions)	19 August
1 March	31 August
16 March (2 sessions)	6 September
17 March	14 September

The Law Clinic was officially launched on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2017 at San Anton Palace (

<https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170424/local/malta-gets-its-first-free-legal-clinic.645937>). The Cottonera Resource Centre was involved in the launch of the Law Clinic. <https://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/news/pariri-legali-minghajr-hlas-ghal-min-ma-jiflahx-ihallas/?src=hm>.

To ensure the smooth co-ordination between the Civil Law Department and the Cottonera Resource Centre, the director is on the board of the Law Clinic chaired by Dr. David Zammit.

## **Counselling**

Counselling sessions held at the Cottonera Resource Centre are conducted by students attending MA courses provided by the Department of Counselling, namely the Master in Counselling and MA in Transcultural Counselling. Students are assigned placements at the Centre to help individuals from the Cottonera and surrounding area facing emotional and/or psychosocial difficulties, or those seeking personal growth and understanding.



### **Free Counselling Sessions**

at the Cottonera Resource Centre,  
St. Edward's Street,  
Fortini, Vittoriosa

For more information or for an  
appointment please call on  
T: 2340 7801 or email: [crc@um.edu.mt](mailto:crc@um.edu.mt)



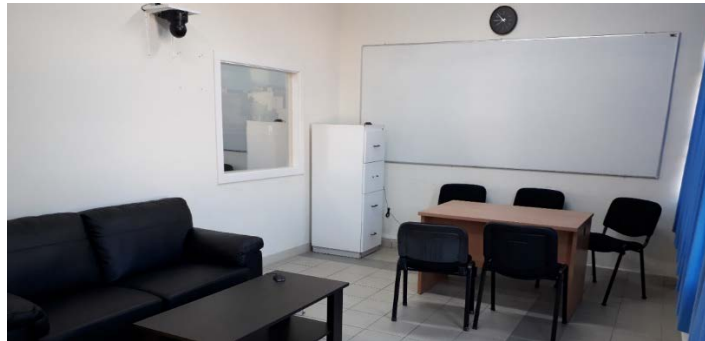
The role of the CRC administrative staff is to promote this service within the community, liaise with entities/individuals who might need this service, and to allocate clients to trainee counsellors. The director meets with counselling students at the beginning of each academic year to explain how the service is run at the CRC.

Counselling sessions are usually held between Monday and Friday. This year the students on placement were Maria Lisa Mangion Abdilla, Michelle Frendo, and Gaby Bartoli.

Promotion of counselling was organized by CRC and conducted by Ms. Christine Vella and Ms. Marya Camenzuli, two first year counselling students.

The table hereunder shows the number of sessions and clients each counsellor had between October 2016 and August 2017.

<u>Counsellor</u>	<u>Total Number of sessions</u>	<u>Total Number of Clients</u>
Gaby Bartoli	19	3
Maria Lisa Mangion Abdilla	60	11
Michelle Frendo	21	8



Room 5 has audio-visual equipment to help capture interaction between clients and students during counselling and legal sessions

### **Taking the Law Clinic and Counselling to Valletta through Valletta 18**

In October 2016 the director was approached by Mr. Glen Farrugia representing Valletta 18. Mr. Farrugia underlined that V18 had been asked by the Rector to replicate some of the services offered at the CRC in Valletta. The two services which V18 chose to promote in Valletta were the Law Clinic and Counselling. A number of meetings took place to earmark a place where these sessions can be held, and the role to be played by the CRC in their setting up and management.

### **French Conversations**

French conversation classes were held at the Cottonera Resource Centre during the academic year 2016/2017. Sessions were carried out by a French EVS volunteer Ms. Carole-Ann Liege. Applicants applied through the Cottonera Resource Centre and attended a 2 hour session every Friday from February till June 2017. These conversation sessions were held once weekly, and

consisted of discussions on particular French issues such as ecology, art, politics, history, geography, etc.

Number of lessons	Number of Students
26	4

### **English language lessons for Female Migrants**

The Cottonera Resource Centre with the help of volunteers from the Gender Studies Department helped organize a number of English language lessons for members of the Malta Migrant Women Association. These sessions took place at the Malta Voluntary Organization in Valletta every Tuesday and Thursday morning. They started on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October and ended on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2016. Child minding facilities were provided. The two EVS volunteers attended these English language sessions.



Ms. Sue Goona and Ms. Charity Kamou

<http://migrantwomenmalta.org/portfolio/english-for-beginners/>

### **Maltese language course for foreigners**

A number of foreign residents approached CRC asking for lessons in Maltese. CRC advertised a course and four students applied, although only three turned up consistently. The course which started in March 2017 ended in May 2017. In 2017-18 these course will be provided by the Lifelong Learning Directorate.

### **Kids on Campus**

The University of Malta rectorate sponsored 3 primary school students from St. Margaret College to enable them to attend Kids on Campus in 2016-17. The objective of this exercise is to widen the horizons of children deriving from socially deprived backgrounds, especially those coming

from families where nobody has gone to university. CRC liaised with the Principal of St Margaret's College to facilitate the nomination of these 3 students aged between 6 and 7 years. Transport to and from the University was coordinated by the staff at the CRC.

## **L-Arti u l-Espressjoni fil-Kottonera**

**'L-ARTI U L-ESPRESSJONI FIL-KOTTONERA'**  
KORS TA' FTIT GIMGHAT FUQ IL-KULTURA, L-ARTI U L-MUZIKA KOTTONERA

Kors ġdid li ha jibda **fil-12 ta' April**, li se jiddiskuti l-kultura, l-artikettura, l-arti u l-mużika fil-Kottonera. Kull ġimgha ha jkollna mistiedna li ha jitkellmu fuq suġġetti differenti f'dan il-qasam.

**Il-pubbliku hu mistiden għal dan il-kors.**  
Dan il-kors ha jsir **fiċ-Ċentru ta' Riżorsi fil-Kottonera** tal-Università ta' Malta.

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
L-Università ta' Malta

Għal aktar informazzjoni kuntattja:  
crc@um.edu.mt / Tel: 23407801

**Kors b'donazzjoni ta C20**

Il-kellima se jinkludu: Onorevoli. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, Prof. Raphael Vella, Prof. Cassola fost oħrajn.

The course was created by Prof Peter Mayo, one of the board members, to promote adult learning. This course focused on art, music, architecture, artists or architects found in or deriving from the Cottonera area. Ten lectures were held. These started at 6 pm and lasted for two hours. On two occasions, the sessions involved site visits. One session took place at the Maritime Museum in Birgu and Mr. Joe Abela used the artefacts there to illustrate some of the issues he raised during the lecture. On another occasion, Mr. John Vella took a group to visit the Byzantine chapel in Bormla. This course raised a lot of interest from Maltese and foreign individuals. They asked that in the future this course would be longer and look into the visual, aural/oral and architectural gems found in the Cottonera area.

### **Speakers and Topics**

Date	Speaker	Topic
12 April 2017	Hon. Dr. U. Mifsud Bonnici	Art & Culture in the Cottonera churches
21 <sup>st</sup> April 2017	Prof. Raphael Vella	The identification of contemporary art in the Cottonera
28 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Mr. Joe Abela	Art & design of naval vessels

5 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Dr. Mark Sagona	The contribution of the Cottonera area to the decorative arts in Malta in the 19th and the 20th centuries.
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Ms. Marlene Mifsud Chircop	L-Ghana Bormliza u l-ghana tal-banju
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Ms. Katya Micallef	The art work of Mr. Genius
18 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Mr. John Vella	The Byzantine chapel in Bormla
26 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Prof. Arnold Cassola	Literature in the Cottonera between the 19th & 20th century
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	Ms. Lorraine Aquilina	The life and works of Mr. Sunny Aquilina
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Dr. Claude Busuttil	Architecture in Cottonera

#### Number of applicants per locality:

Locality	Number
Birzebbuga	1
Marsascalea	3
Bormla	3
Zabbar	2
Sta Lucija	1
Vittoriosa	3
Kalkara	2
Fgura	2
Senglea	1
Mellieha	1
Naxxar	2
Guardamangia	2
Swieqi	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>

### **MCA course – An Introduction to the Internet**

In summer of 2016 the director approached the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) to see if they were interested in running a course on e-literacy at the CRC. A number of persons had approached CRC asking for such a course. The MCA was keen on conducting the two courses outlined below. The CRC disseminated the idea and sold the course via the internet. Twenty five people applied for one or both courses. When it came to carrying the courses, MCA could only cater for ten people. The first ten people to register for this course started their first lesson on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2016. They attended ten sessions of 2 hours each, every Wednesday from 9 to 11 am. MCA stopped the course after covering Course A only.

#### **Course A – Introduction to the Internet**



This basic training course will introduce students to the benefits of the Internet as part of your daily activities. This course is best suited for those who have never used the Internet before.

The following topics will be covered during this course:

- An introduction to computers, mobile devices and internet basics
- How to use an operating system and its applications
- Browsing the Internet
- Communication – email
- Managing digital media
- Social networking
- Internet banking
- Online shopping
- eGovernment services
- Digital citizenship and online safety
- Tips on purchasing a computer, a smart mobile device and an internet connection.



Unfortunately Part B of the course was not offered, to the disappointment of the students who had applied for both Part A and B.

### **Course B – Internet at the Workplace**

- This basic course helps students to acquire the basic competences needed to use the Internet and the computer at the place of work. This course is aimed at those already in employment, the self-employed or those seeking a job. This course will cover the following topics:
- Communicating with clients or colleagues through email and social networking
- Introduction to word processors, spreadsheets, and presentation software
- An introduction to databases
- Using ICT for marketing, stock keeping and client database
- The ethical use of ICT – data protection principles
- ICT safety – backups, passwords etc.
- Writing and posting a CV online
- Searching for a job online
- Proper disposal of used ICT equipment.

## **E-commerce and Digital Literacy**

The students who had attended the MCA course (see above) were very disappointed that it had no follow up. This pushed the CRC director to approach Prof Marvin Formosa, director of the University of the Third Age to see if this entity could sponsor a follow up course. Fifteen applicants aged 60 and over applied for E-Commerce and Digital Literacy organized and delivered by Ms. Marouska Bugeja. This course was delivered by Ms. Bugeja every Tuesdays from 3 pm to 5 pm over a ten week period, starting from the 25<sup>th</sup> of April until the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2017.



## **Italia Film Festival**

Arturo Mingardi, director of Cinema Nuovo Italiano, once again organized the Italia Film Festival. This year two films were screened at the Cottonera Resource Centre. These consisted of Italo which was screened on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 (instead of the Valletta campus as advertised), and Fungus Rock which was shown on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December at 6 pm. Refreshments were provided for guests. The director of Fungus Rock, Arturo Mingardi, gave a short speech prior to the screening of the documentary.



## **University of the Third Age**

The University of the Third Age sessions are held every Thursday from 9 am to 11 am. During 2016-17 academic year the following sessions were held:

U3E 280:	Rabta bejn Politka u Espressjoni Artistika
Lecturer:	H.E Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici
No. of sessions held:	7
Dates:	6 <sup>th</sup> October – 24 <sup>th</sup> November
Average attendance:	15
U3E 264:	Il-Politika u S-Socjeta' Malta

Lecturer: Dr. Michael Briguglio  
 No. of sessions held: 6  
 Dates: 1<sup>st</sup> December – 9<sup>th</sup> February  
 Average attendance: 10

U3E 275: Great Siege of Malta  
 Lecturer: Mr. Vincent Zammit  
 No. of sessions held: 10  
 Dates: 16<sup>th</sup> February – 6<sup>th</sup> April  
 Average attendance: 16

Untold history and hidden gems of Bormla  
 Lecturer: Mr. John Vella  
 No. of sessions held: 7  
 Dates: 27<sup>st</sup> April – 15<sup>th</sup> June  
 Average attendance: 15

Mr. Vella had to replace Mr. Liam Gauci at the last minute because the latter could not deliver the course due to the fact that he had changed his job.

### **Lifelong Learning Courses offered by the Directorate for Lifelong Learning, MEDE**

During this academic year there were three different Lifelong Learning courses held at the Cottonera Resource Centre. These adult learning programmes included:-

Course	Level	Duration	No. of Students
Lace Making – Maltese Bobbin Lace	MQF 1	October 2016 – June 2017	12
Basic digital photography	MQF 1	October 2016 – June 2017	12
ECDL	MQF 2/3	October 2016 – June 2017	7

The role of the CRC is to promote these courses and to help potential clients apply for the courses. During the academic year social activities were organized for the students attending the morning sessions. CRC tried to organize a lace exhibition in the foyer of the new parliament, but unfortunately, after all the preparation, nothing came out of this

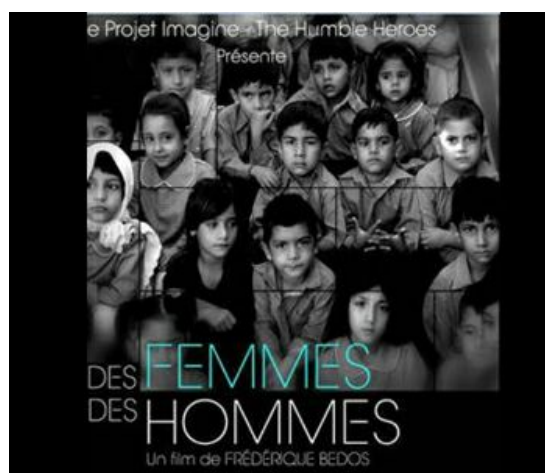
During the summer the following courses were promoted:-

Course Code	Time	Code	Level	Duration
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Lace Making – Maltese Bobbin Lace	Monday 9am to 12 pm	CNGO002	MQF 1	October 2017 – June 2018
Personal care (Beauty care)	Tuesday 5 to 8 pm	HNGO001	MQF 1	October 2017 – June 2018
ECDL	Tuesday 5 to 8 pm	INGO003	MQF 2/3	October 2017 – June 2018
Maltese as a foreign language	Tuesday 9 to 12 pm	LNGO008	MQF 1	October 2017 – June 2018

## **French Film Festival**

Maggy Dago, EVS volunteer, organized and promoted this event. The documentary *Des Femmes, Des Hommes* was screened on 28 March 2017 at Pietru Pawl Saydon lecturing theatre at Tal-Qroqq at 6 pm. Ms. Dago delivered an introductory speech before the screening of the documentary. The documentary was kindly provided by the French Embassy. This event was well attended. A discussion followed the screening.



## **Prima Klassi**

Appogg Cottonera Community organises the project Prima Klassi. This course is hosted at the Cottonera Resource Centre. The aim of the course is to motivate inactive women from the Cottonera area to join the labour market. The sessions are held every Friday morning, with the session being split into two parts. During the first part, Ms. Butters teaches English, while the second part of the sessions are dedicated to self-development. Ms. Carole-Ann Liege (EVS) and

Ms. Cassandra Sturgeon each delivered a talk during these sessions. Ms. Carole-Ann Liege spoke on sexual health, while Ms. Sturgeon delivered a talk on the careful use of medicine.



Carole-Ann Liege (EVS) giving a lecture on Sexual Health Information, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017

## **Qawsalla**

The CRC helped the coordinators of this women's group, Claire Gafa and Jean Paul Zammit working at Agenzija Appogg, find speakers for this group. The group consists of women aged 30+. Empowerment is the objective of this group. Dr. Andreanna Dibben and Dr. Marceline Naudi were two of the speakers who took part.

## **Parents' course, Senglea**

Ms. Cassandra Sturgeon together with Ms. Carole-Ann Liege (EVS) delivered a short Carer's course to a number of mothers from Senglea. The course was organized by Ms. Rita Buhagiar, head of Senglea Primary School. The three meetings included a session on sexual health, correct use of medicine, caring for children and dependent adults.

## **Media**

Constant media exposure has to be maintained to ensure that the public is informed about what is happening at the CRC. CRC is also in constant contact with local councils, parish priests, LEAP, Forum Bormliz and Radju Kottoner who are kindly asked to promote our services. Paid adverts are mainly used to recruit human resources needed for Xjenza Mania and the Revision Classes. Services are usually promoted through the social media, radio and TV appearances.

## Promotion through media

Date	Entity/Person	Reason
28 October	Campus FM	The Cottonera Resource Centre
8 November	Illum	Interview on gender and education. <a href="http://www.illum.com.mt/ahbarijiet/socjali/47754/missierha_jeodilh_a_lktieb_jekk_jaraha_tistudja">http://www.illum.com.mt/ahbarijiet/socjali/47754/missierha_jeodilh_a_lktieb_jekk_jaraha_tistudja</a>
9 February	TVM	Twelve to Three
7 April	Campus FM	Talking Eds - Gender Issues and Feminism on Campus FM
20 April	TVM	Twelve to Three – counselling
19 May	Multiple	Discussed the Cottonera Resource Centre as community involvement during Faculty for Social Wellbeing seminar conducted at Verdala Palace

## **Visit by School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University**

Professor Susan Hirsch organized a visit for MA students attending the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution on the 15th of March 2017. The group consisted of 15 students and 2 staff. The focus was on “Bridging Differences.” Issues concerning migration, social class, gender, space and language were discussed. The students were given a short description of the Cottonera area, and the remit of the CRC was discussed. The students were very interested to learn about the rivalry between the Three Cities and tried to come up with solutions on how to solve this. They suggested holding a talent show, where people from The Three Cities could showcase their talent. Healthy rivalry, they suggested, would facilitate reconciliation!

## **Setting up of a library at CRC**

The Cottonera Resource Centre has asked entities and individuals to donate new and second hand books for its library. This year the books were catalogued and inputted in the University of Malta Library catalogue system. They have also been shelved.

## **Meetings with representatives of different entities at the University of Malta**

To ensure the smooth running of the Cottonera Resource Centre and the creation and implementation of new projects, we are in constant dialogue with different entities at the

University of Malta. The meeting which took place this year helped consolidate the setting up of the CRC.

### **Strategy Meetings**

Due to the fact that CRC has expanded, the board in a meeting held in July 2016 decided that it would make sense if a meeting is held with the Pro-Rector dealing with strategy, namely Prof. Tanya Sammut-Bonnici. A number of meetings were held starting from 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016. During the meeting the CRC's remit, the services, projects, finances, set up and personnel were discussed. The aim of meetings which took place between the Pro-rectorate, the board and/or director was to come up with the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. This was then presented to the rector, Prof Vella on the 4 of April 2017 (<http://www.um.edu.mt/crc/strategicplan2017-2020>).

### **Insurance and Occupational Health and Safety Risk Assessment**

Following a number of meetings with UoM Finance Office, Legal Office, Mr. Joe Bugeja and after answering a spate of e-mails from the representative of Insurance Mediterranean Brokers, it was decided that the CRC would receive coverage under Public Liability and Employers' Liability Sections in respect of activities consisting of Legal Clinic, Counselling Services, Revision Classes to secondary students and Lifelong Learning courses carried out at Cottonera Resource Centre, St. Edward Street, Vittoriosa on an annual basis. This insurance coverage was based on an Occupational Health and Safety Risk Assessment report dated 12.01.2017 prepared by Mr. Louis Coleiro. Mr. Coleiro drew another report on 28.08.2017 to ensure that the courses which fall under the umbrella of Xjenza Mania are also covered.

### **Lease Agreement**

Lease agreement for CRC premises were signed by Principal of St Margaret's College, Mr. Emile Vassallo, Rector Prof Vella (UoM) and Director (CRC) on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2017. A number of meetings between pro-rector Dr. Carmen Sammut, electrician, UoM architect, MEDE representatives, Principal of College, Mr. Simon Sammut took place before this was carried out.

### **Meetings with different entities at university level**

Date	Entity/Person	Reason
11 October 2016	Simon Sammut	MOU with St Margaret's College
12 October 2016	Finance Department	EVS
14 October 2016	Finance	EVS
17 October	Rectorate + Human Resources	Interview of candidates who applied for post of Project coordinator
18 October		

10 November	Dr. Marvin Formosa	Setting up of U3A board
22 November	Director + Project Coordinator	Selection of new mentors
22 December	CRC	Christmas party for students and staff
12 January	Centre for Socio-emotional Resilience	Training of mentors
31 January	Pro-Rector, Prof Tanya Sammut Bonnici	Strategy meeting involving CRC board members
2 February	Mr. Joe Bugeja from Finance Office, Dr. De Giovanni from Legal Services	Discussion on insurance for CRC
8 February	International Office	Tapping into Fulbright funds
13 February	Counselling students	Gave them tips on how to promote counselling
15 February	Finance Office	CRC financial situation + EVS
15 February	CRC mentors	Training
2 March	Lifelong Learning Directorate	Met with Ms. Kathleen Attard to discuss present courses offered at CRC and one's we would like to host next year
3 March	Pro-Rector, Prof Tanya Sammut Bonnici	Director, Chair
8 March	Pro-Rector, Prof Tanya Sammut Bonnici	CRC board members
8 March	Centre for Artificial Intelligence	Potential collaboration
9 March	Prof Aquilina	Showed video of Birgu elderly to U3A to promote Importance of subtitles
10 March	Library	CRC library
13 March	CRC mentors	Preparation for Xjenza Mania
22 March	Pro-Rector, Office of Prof Tanya Sammut Bonnici	CRC strategy
27 March	Library	On setting up CRC library
28 March	Gender Studies + CRC + French Embassy	Des Hommes et des Femmes, screened on main campus
4 April	Rector Prof Vella + Pro Rector Prof Tanya Sammut Bonnici	Presentation of CRC Strategy plan
4 April	Legal clinic board	Launch of law clinic
6 April	Centre for Socio-emotional Resilience	Mentoring
19 April	Prof Marie Alexander	Feedback on ED01-17 report regarding Xjenza Mania
20 April	Law clinic board	Launch discussion
3 May	Law clinic	Launch
9 May	Premju Kreattiv	Discussed project with potential lecturers
10 May	Xjenza Mania	Met potential mentor



11 May	Dean of Faculty for Dental Surgery	Discussed their participation during Xjenza Mania
1 June	HR – Robert Abdilla	Kids on Campus
2 June	Dean for SWB	Discussed how to attract non-traditional students to UoM
16 June	Dean for SWB & Prof Paul Downes	Skype meeting on how to attract and retain non-traditional students to UoM
22 June	Xjenza Mania - mentors	Preparation for Xjenza Mania
28 June	Xjenza Mania	Meeting with parents
5 July	Xjenza Mania - mentors	Preparation for Xjenza Mania
19 July	Centre for Socio-emotional Resilience	Mentoring
6 September	Human Resource – Mr. Abdilla	Recruitment of administrator or project coordinator at CRC

## **Community involvement**

A number of meetings with entities within the Cottonera area or beyond took place during this academic year. These meetings were held either to promote the services/programmes being delivered at CRC, or to liaise with community stakeholders to come up with new products.

Forum Bormliz occurs on a bi-monthly basis. The objective is to bring together stakeholders working in the area. In this manner the stakeholders can share what they are doing, and liaise with one another. Every year, action is taken over certain issues. The main concern this year was the social housing project earmarked for Hanover, Bormla.

Forum Bormliz meeting



The director is also a trustee on the President’s Trust. The objective of this trust is to create and finance a number of projects to help promote the social wellbeing of vulnerable children and youth. Some of the projects created by the President’s Trust benefit children and youth living in the south of Malta. With regards to projects located in the North of Malta, the director’s acumen and contacts were used to help set them up and organize them. For further information on the President’s Trust please visit the website <http://www.presidentstrust.org.mt/en/projects>

## Community involvement

Date	Entity/Person	Reason
7 October	Malta Migrant Women Association and Chaplaincy	Found out if CRC and MMWA could hold legal sessions at chaplaincy
18 October	Malta Migrant Women Association	Went to see how language sessions being held at the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector were progressing
15 November	President's Trust	
22 November	Senglea Head of Primary School	Promotion of CRC services
25 November	Bormla Middle School	Promotion of CRC services
30 November	Zabbar Primary School	Promotion of CRC services
6 December	Kalkara Primary School	Promotion of CRC services
21 December	Forum Bormliz	Leaders in community
18 January	Natalie Boehm	Donated books for CRC library
20 January	Forum Bormliz	Meeting of service providers in area
21 February	President's Trust	
22 February	President's Trust	
3 February	President's Trust	
1 March	President's Trust	
2 March	Senglea Primary School	Parents' classes
8 March	President's Trust	
10 March	St Margaret's College	Met with head of schools
16 March	Centru Tbexbix	Took Prof Aquilina who showed video on Birgu elderly to promote the importance of sub-titles
11 March	President's Trust	
21 April	President's Trust	
20 April	Senglea Primary School	Parents' classes
3 May	President's Trust	
10 May	President's Trust	
15 May	President's Trust	
1 June	President's Trust	
6 June	President's Trust	
30 June	Forum Bormliz	Updates
5 July	President's Trust	
14 July	President's Trust	
26 July	President's Trust	
8 August	President's Trust	
12 September	Forum Bormliz	Met architect in charge of Hanover social housing
15 September	President's Trust	Arriolos press conference
18 September	President's Trust	
20 September	President's Trust	

## **Meetings with other entities**

Constant dialogue is conducted with different people to ameliorate the services at the CRC and/or come up with new projects.

Date	Entity/Person	Reason
4 October	EPALE award	Shooting of video for award night
20 October	EUOA	EVS
20 October	EPALE	EPALE award night
7 November	D Fab	Presentation of 2 robots
9 November	Dr. Ruth Falzon, Dyslexia Association	How to deal with students with dyslexia
11 November	Science in the City consortium	Premju Kreattiv
2 December	US Embassy	Fulbright funds
6 December	V18	CRC in Valletta
6 December	Ministry for Social Solidarity	Organization of conference on women and science
14 December	Commissioner for Children	Potential project
17 January	Commissioner for Children	COPING project
26 January	Principal, St Margaret's College	Introduced CRC to new principal
8 February	Malta Communications Authority	Participation in project on women and science
17 February	French Embassy	Discussed collaboration on French film festival
22 February	Principal, St Margaret's College	Discussed lease for CRC
8 March	French Embassy, cultural attache	MigRazzjoni Photo exhibition
24 March	Greenhouse	Collaboration on research on disengaged students and their view of science
22 March	AISEC	Provision of volunteers in summer
9 June	AFM	Potential visit by Xjenza Mania students
30 June	MCST	Esplora science theatre
4 September	ILGA – Ruth Baldacchino	Public lecture held at CRC on rights of LGBTIQ prostitutes
19 September	Valletta 18	Taking CRC to Valletta

## **European Voluntary Services falling under EUPA**

Hosting the two EVS volunteers led to a number of meetings. CRC had to find accommodation for them, take them on orientation visits, ensured that the necessary paper work was conducted. The latter meant liaising with Centru Tbeix, Finance Office, and EUPA.

Date	Entity/Person	Reason
1 October	Dr. Bland	Rent of house in Kalkara

25 October	Carole-Ann Liege	Picked up from airport
26 October	Maggy Dago	Picked up from airport
1 November	Both	Orientation visit of Cottonera
1 November		
15 November	EMN	Gender and Migration Conference
30 November	Centru Tbexbix	Update on project
30 December	Centru Tbexbix	Update on project
23 December	NCPE/Employers' Association	Business Breakfast on Paid Paternity leave
27 January	Prima Klassi	Healthy sexual relationships, Carole-Ann Liege
17 February	French Embassy	Discussed collaboration on French film festival
1 March	Centru Tbexbix	Update on project
27 April	MCST	Premju Kreattiv
29 April		Maggy Dago leaves
4 June		Mylene Pelade arrives
5 September	Dr. Bland	Went to Kalkara to read electricity and water reader on the premises
6 September	EUPA and Centru Tbexbix	On the spot visit to discuss EVS

## **Reports for National Reform Programme**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 director submitted a report on the services and programmes being conducted at the Cottonera Resource Centre. This information was needed for the Malta's National Reform Programme. Contact person was Ms. Gwen Gatt, Senior Manager, Programme Implementation Directorate, Ministry for Education and Employment.

## **Science in the City**

Science in the City takes place every year on the last Friday of September. Last year the CRC took part for the first time. Mr. Craus, Mr. Bonello, Mr. Serpina and Ms. Bugeja together with a number of students who took part in Xjenza Mania helped entertain the public. Engineering kits, robots and the experiments conducted by Dr. Lourdes Farrugia attracted a number of children and parents.



### **Income generated**

The income below was generated through the projects and services provided at the CRC. Some of these funds went to cover some of the expenses generated by these projects/services. The rest was invested in new equipment such as laptops and MindStorm robots. These funds supplement the 1,500 euros provided as recurrent funds, and the 25,000 euros provided by UoM administration to cover salaries to help run Revision Classes and Xjenza Mania.

Source	Amount
Revision classes	1570
Xjenza Mania	6173
Robotics	540
U3A	60
Course Arti fil-Kottonera	480
Premju Kreattiv	4000
Donations	145
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,968 euros</b>