

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

# Academic Report

## October 2015-September 2016

## Contents

Introduction

Revision Classes

Pavlis Institute - Experiments

Legal Clinic

Counselling

Xjenza Mania STEAM Summer School

    Visits to the Centre

    Outings during XjenzaMania

    Sponsorships

    Experiments

Adult Courses Organised by the CRC

    Insahhu l-Familja li nhobbu

    Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa

Public Lecture on Housing

Kids on Campus

University of the Third Age

Italia Film Festival

L-Ghana tas-Sireni

European Volunteering Scheme

Collaborating with Other Entities

Community Engagement and Outreach

Creating or Ameliorating Services

Promotion of CRC Services and Courses

Visits from Foreign Universities

Workshops: EU COST Conference

    Train the trainers

Use of Funds

Maintenance and Cleaning Services

EPALE Awards

Reports



## Introduction

The University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre (CRC) is a multidisciplinary community based lifelong learning and social support centre which adopts a systematic and multi-targeted approach to promote education in the South of Malta. The main objective of the CRC is to help facilitate and develop inter-generational involvement in life wide learning involving families, peer groups, the community, schools and university. The objective is to help promote leadership, self-awareness and active citizenship through the services provided.

The Centre was initially set up to explore the possibility of developing socially and culturally sensitive community engagement. To enable the CRC to do so it has to come up with outreach initiatives in the community, and it does so by setting up diverse sites for learning. These diverse sites eventually provide academics and university students with opportunities for developing socially- and culturally-sensitive academic, research, teaching and community projects. These community based projects can only take place through the constant collaboration with stakeholders at university, local and national level. Constant dialogue and cross agency cooperation is essential when it comes to facilitate access and retention of non-traditional learners in life wide education.

Services provided at the CRC are created and/or provided in the Cottonera and Kalkara area

- a. by university entities
- b. government entities
- c. non-government entities

The CRC is constantly conducting its formal and informal research to find out which services would be beneficial for different individuals and groups living in the South of Malta. When it cannot provide the services itself, it tries to rope in other departments/centres/institutes at university level or through government entities. CRC staff are constantly keeping themselves abreast with the educational needs of the communities and social groups in the area in which they are located and trying to find service providers who can provide the service to assuage this need. Non-government entities are also approached or their representatives approach CRC when they think they can be of benefit to the community.

Some services were created by the CRC with the funds allocated to it for this purpose. These consist of the Revision Classes and XjenzaMania. Providing these services entails recruiting personnel, training them, acquiring the necessary non-human resources while ensuring that the acquired part-time staff carry out their duties professionally. CRC has to find ways of generating funds to be in a position to acquire some of the resources needed for these projects, as in the case of the WeDo 2 kits.

When other university entities, government and non-government organizations provide the service, the role of the CRC is to promote the service at community level, organize the logistics, procure sometimes the educational resources needed and/or monitor the said service while constantly liaising with the service providers involved. All services have to be constantly promoted using various means, including the media, social media, and attending community outreach events.

The CRC gets a lot of help from various Cottonera Resource Centre board members. The board members do not only ensure that the CRC sticks to its remit, but come up with ideas which the CRC implements. Various board members are also involved in the implementation of certain services such as that of the legal clinic, counselling and adult education.

In 2015-6 academic year the board consisted of:

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointed by</b>
Chairperson	Dr. Andreana Dibben	Council
Director	Dr JosAnn Cutajar	Senate
Member	Prof Simone Borg	Senate
Member	Prof Peter Mayo	Senate
Member	Ms Maria McNamara	Senate
Member	Dr Dione Mifsud	Senate
Member	Mr Simon Sammut	Council
Member	Dr Noel Vella	Senate
Member	Dr. David Zammit	Senate

During this academic year the CRC board met 6 times in between November 2015 and August 2016. These meetings were held to discuss the remit of the CRC, bounce new projects/services and to assess how older ones were being implemented. One off meetings were also held with different board members who were involved in particular projects linked with the CRC. The board was also interested in facilitating the entry and retention of non-traditional students at university. For this purpose various meetings were held with stakeholders found on main campus to discuss what administrative changes might need to be enacted to persuade this cohort to pursue their education past the compulsory stage, and once they enter university facilitating the presence and retention.

This year the Director Dr Cutajar had the help of two Graduate Trainees - Ms Maria Fava (full-time) and Ms Pamela Vella Scicluna (on reduced hours). Ms Vella Scicluna resigned as of 19th August 2017.

In the following pages some feedback will be given on the different services or projects undertaken at the CRC. We will first start with the services organized and provided by the CRC which consisted of Revision Classes, *XjenzaMania*, *Kors fuq il-Familja* and *Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa*. This report will then move on to speak about the Counselling and Legal clinics. Four units provided by the University of the Third Age were also hosted at the CRC. The report will then discuss services provided by government and non-government entities.

## Revision classes

One of the main projects organized by the CRC consist of Revision Classes. During such sessions the students have the opportunity to discuss any educational difficulties they have with their mentors and revise for their examinations. Their teachers are called mentors because their role is not only to teach the subject in which they specialize but to also help their students deal effectively with socio-emotional issues while giving career and vocational guidance. To facilitate this process, classes are kept small.

Before the start of the academic year, a call for part-time mentors was made through the Human Resources Department. Six mentors were selected to conduct revision sessions in Maltese, English, Mathematics and Physics to Form 4 students. An interviewing board met on the 7th of October to choose the mentors. The mentors met on the 15th and 19th October to learn what their duties were and what was expected of them. The CRC works with Form 4 students to help those students who might be struggling academically, and would therefore need some extra assistance to be able to successfully achieve their MATSEC O-levels.

The revision sessions were held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoon between 16.00 and 19.00, with sessions lasting one and a half hours each. The Form 4 students were divided into different classes according to their competence in the subject. The following table shows the subjects offered, and the number of students per mentor.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Mentor</b>	<b>Number of sessions held</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
Maltese	Francesco Bonello	93	20
English	Berta Schembri	92	22

Mathematics & Physics	Kimberly Abela	84	14
Mathematics	Brian Craus	108	12
Physics	Marco Bonanno	26	5
Physics	Lourdes Farrugia	54	5

Furthermore, three volunteers gave one to one sessions to four students in care (aged 11, 12, 14, 15 years) in English and Maltese.

To find out whether this service has borne any fruit, students who had frequent Revision classes/Mentoring in the past were contacted. Not all could be reached since some had moved since 2013 and we did not have their present contact details. Others were not available at the time when this research was conducted. All in all 60 % of the cohort were contacted. This raw data given here will be updated every year and processed.

Table 1 - success of students who attended mentoring and revision classes 2013-16

Gender	Location	Course	Year	Remarks
F	Kalkara	Mentoring & Revision Sessions	2013 & 2014	To start University in Oct 2016 - BA Maltese & Psychology
F	Birgu	Mentoring	2013	Working in a factory
F	Isla	Mentoring	2013	To start University in Oct 2016 - Dentistry / Radiography
M	Birgu	Mentoring	2013	MCAST - Creative Arts - Art & Design Lvl 4 - To start in October
M	Bormla	Mentoring	2013	MCAST - Computing - To start in October
F	Bormla	Mentoring	2013	Medical problems
M	Bormla	Mentoring	2013	Will be registering to enter MCAST - Animal Husbandry
M	Bormla	Mentoring	2013	Employed full time at Playmobil
F	Bormla	Mentoring & Revision Sessions	2013 - 2014	Higher Secondary Naxxar

M	Bormla	Mentoring & Revision Sessions	2013 - 2014	To start MCAST in October 2016 (Sports)
M	Isla	Mentoring	2013 - 2014	Form 5
F	Kalkara	Mentoring & Revision Sessions	2014 - 2015	MCAST Level 3 Diploma in Applied Science
F	Kalkara	Mentoring & Revision Sessions	2014 - 2015	Higher Secondary School Naxxar
M	M'Scala	Mentoring & Revision Sessions	2014 - 2015	MCAST - will sit for O levels again in May 2017
F	Zejtun	Mentoring & Revision Sessions	2014 - 2015	2nd year Junior College - A level Accounts & English
F	Bormla	Revision Sessions	2014 - 2015	Works at Lidl
M	Bormla	Revision Sessions	2014 - 2015	To start MCAST in October 2016
F	Bormla	Revision Sessions	2014 - 2015	MCAST - Course in Caring Professions
F	Fgura	Revision Sessions	2015 - 2016	passed 2 O-levels at Form 4 level
M	Zabbar	Revision Sessions	2015 - 2016	did not pass annual exams
M	M'Skala	Revision Sessions	2015 - 2016	did not pass annual exams
M	Zabbar	Revision Sessions	2015 - 2016	did not pass annual exams
F	M'Skala	Revision Sessions & Summer	2015 - 2016	mixed results in annual exams



M	Zabbar	Revision Sessions	2015 - 2016	slight improvement in annual exams
F	Zejtun	Revision Sessions	2015 - 2016	passed annual exam
M	Birgu	Revision Sessions	2015 - 2016	did well in annual exam

## Pavlis Institute – Experiments

This year three Engineering undergraduates from the Michigan Tech University delivered a number of experiments during the physics revision sessions. The experiments permitted the Maltese students to learn through a hands-on approach and acted as a consolidation of the topics that were being tackled in class.

Experiment conducted:

- Electric Motor Demonstration
- Sound Wave Demonstration
- Basic Circuits Demonstration
- Catapult Physics Demonstration



Preparations for 2016-2017 are already underway. A meeting was held on the 19th September on how to plan the time-table for the next academic year, and promote it.

## Legal Clinic

The legal clinic continued to operate at the Cottonera Resource Centre. Fifth year law students attending the Advocacy course provided by the Civil Law Department within the Faculty of Laws see clients as part of their practicum. The objective of this exercise serves to teach law students how to practice what they learn during their advocacy course. Students are confronted by real problem situations: they have to identify and solve the problem under the tutelage of their supervisors.

During the academic year 2015/2016 twelve law students participated in this project. The students were mainly placed into groups of two with each team taking on an average of three cases during the academic year. The centre was approached by 35 potential clients during the months of October 2015 and March 2016. A new virtual bookkeeping system was set up in order to organize the clients and allocate them to the teams as efficiently as possible. The Law Clinic was coordinated with the help of Dr. Kurt Scerri.

The Advocacy students who participated in this project were:

- Ruth Ellul
- Luigi Farrugia
- Maxine Gauci
- Rebecca Muscat
- Kirk Brincau
- Miguel Balzan
- Nicholas De Gaetano
- Gianella Farrugia
- John Azzopardi
- Frankie Sammut
- Alexander Paul Miruzzi
- Jeanise Bonnici
- Karl Muscat

Legal Clinic appointments resumed during the month of July and August 2016. Three law students began to see new clients at the CRC. The students saw three cases, while two clients were still waiting for an appointment by the time this report was written. The legal clinic was mentioned in a report written by Clelia Bartoli (special issue May 2016) *Legal clinics in Europe:*

*for a commitment of higher education in social justice* after the director provided the necessary information to the researcher.

One needs to point out that the CRC helps in a number of ways in the success of this clinic. It actively promotes this service among service providers in the area using a number of methods to do so. Before the students start seeing clients, they are given some socio-economic details about the area, and the type of clients and issues that were dealt with by past students. Apart from processing calls, and working with the Civil Law Department co-ordinator to assign students to cases, the CRC is also involved in workshops where students discuss how effectively they dealt with different cases, and what they learnt from this practicum.



**Free Legal Advice**

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

For more information or for an appointment please  
contact us on:



Tel: **2340 7801**  
Email: [crc@um.edu.mt](mailto:crc@um.edu.mt)

A number of meetings were organized to help ameliorate the running of the legal clinic. These involved the students who carry out their practicum at the CRC, Dr Zammit and the legal clinic board.

Dates of meetings		
9 October	13 May	9 August
8 February	13 June	7 September
5 March	28 July	

## 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 them conduct their practicum. Through their practicum they are helping individuals from the Cottonera and surrounding area who are 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. Counselling sessions were usually held on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays during the academic year, on Wednesday afternoons in summer (4-6 pm)

This year the students on placement were:-

- Leonard Griscti
- Josef Mizzi
- Maria Lisa Mangion Abdilla
- Michelle Frendo
- Sylvana Briffa

The hereunder table shows the number of sessions and number of clients each counsellor met between October 2015 and August 2016.

<u>Counsellor</u>	<u>Total Number of sessions</u>	<u>Total Number of Clients</u>
Leonard Griscti	8	3
Josef Mizzi	45	6
Maria Lisa Mangion Abdilla	32	4
Michelle Frendo	29	6
Sylvana Briffa	8	4

A number of meetings have been conducted between IT Services, Civil Law Department, Department of Counselling and CRC to turn Room 5 into a laboratory where sessions between legal clinic/counselling students and clients can be audio-recorded to facilitate assessment and teaching. These meetings took place on the 9th of October, 29th March, and in the beginning of July.

## XjenzaMania STEAM Summer Club 2016

The objective of this project is to promote STEAM, namely science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics among students aged 8 to 13 years, while building on skills and topics already covered in mainstream schools. A hands on approach was adopted in Integrated Science, Physics, Mathematics, English, Maltese, Chemistry, Biology, Design & Technology, Personal Development and ICT. A thematic approach was adopted - every week a different theme is adopted and taught through the different subjects. For further information on the raison d'être behind XjenzaMania, please refer to the following article - XjenzaMania STEAM summer camp at the University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre.<sup>1</sup>

There was an overwhelming demand for this project but only 65 students were accepted for a number of reasons. The CRC adopts a policy that in order to enable all students to engage with the subject, 15 or less students are to be assigned per class. This ensures that the mentors have the time to involve all students. Another reason why we could not take on more students was due to financial and space limitations. The students were divided into six classes according to age and sometimes competence. For the first time students with psycho-social difficulties were accepted.

Every class had three lesson per day of approximately one and a half hours each from Monday till Friday, with the exception of Thursday, where the students were taken on various outings that were organised by the staff members. These outings were linked with either a topic the students were covering in class, or were career oriented (see article mentioned above).

The following is the average attendance of each class:

Class A	8 years	11
Class B	9 years	8
Class C	10 years	8
Class D	11 years	11
Class E	12 years	8
Class F	13 years	8

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1

<https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/features/2016/09/xjenzamaniasteamsummercampattheuniversityofmaltacottonereresourcecentre>

Authorized and unauthorized absentees were not included in the table above and in average attendance. The average attendance in the Xjenza Mania STEAM summer school was of 54 students per day.

A lot of preparation went into the setting up of this summer camp. The table below delineates the timeframe.

Date	Objective of meeting
22 March	Topics chosen
April/May	Promotion of XjenzaMania, purchase of equipment
25 April, 3 May, 8, 10, 28 June, 5 July	Training of mentors
9 June	Interviewing board to select XjenzaMania mentors

## Guest visitors

### Visit to XjenzaMania STEAM summer school by the Commissioner for Children

The Commissioner for Children, Ms Pauline Miceli, visited XjenzaMania held at the Cottonera Resource Centre. During this visit, Dr Cutajar, the director of the CRC explained the reason why this summer school promotes STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) among 8 to 13 year old. Research demonstrates that during these years children start deciding which career paths to follow. This summer school was set up in Cottonera because a number of students had relatives who had at one point in time worked in the dockyard, and hence, without knowing, they might have picked up some technical and scientific knowledge through informal interactions. The school is building on this knowledge.<sup>2</sup>



Ms. Pauline Miceli, Commissioner for Children, addressing the students during assembly.

<sup>2</sup><http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2016-08-06/local-news/Commissioner-for-Children-visits-XjenzaMania-STEAM-Summer-School-6736162038>

Ms Miceli spoke to the students during assembly and underlined that they are the experts of what adults need to do to ensure that their rights are respected. She eventually visited all the classes and saw them at work during ICT, Design and Technology, Science, Maths, English and Maltese.



### Visit from the Mobile Dental Unit

The Mobile Dental Unit offered free check-ups to the students participating in XjenzaMania. In addition to their dental check-ups, the students were also given a short explanation on how to properly take care of their teeth. The CRC also contacted various summer schools in the Cottonera area to inform them of the availability of this service. The mobile unit provided this service to the general public for three consecutive Fridays in July and August.



### Visit from the Insp. Timothy Zammit from the Cyber Crime Unit

Insp. Timothy Zammit was invited to conduct a session on cybercrime on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. During said session the students learnt about cyber bullying and what precautions can be taken to prevent it. The inspector also spoke about the various risks one can encounter online, and what security measures one should take together and what actions need to be taken to report the case.



### EasyPeasy Session

Mr. Klaus Conrad paid a visit to the Centre in order to conduct a programming and robotics session with the students. The classes were divided into three groups. The sessions were also used to showcase the different programmes that can be performed by the same robot.



### Visit to Esplora



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of August the students were taken to Esplora centre, run by the Malta Council of Science and Technology. The students participated in a workshop about bubbles.



### Sponsorship

XjenzaMania acquired a LEGO Mindstorm EV3 kindly sponsored by Malta Enterprise. This robot will be useful to teach robotics and coding.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup><https://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/news/features/2016/09/legomindstormev3donatedtoxjenzamaniasteamsummerschool>



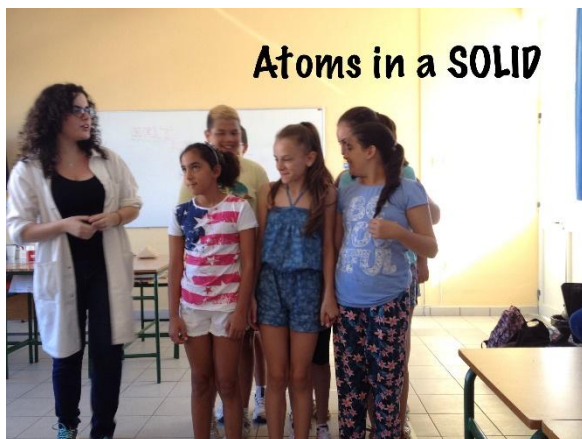
## Experiments

This year the Cottonera Resource Centre elicited the help of Dr Lourdes Farrugia from the Faculty of Science to include a number of experiments and demonstrations which were held during XjenzaMania on Wednesday every week. Different themes were addressed during the summer and topics included discussions and fun activities on bees, demonstrations and experiments on fire and heat, the solar system and our planet. A session on environmental conservation was included in the programme.



For the session on Bees, a biologist from the Department of Biology, Ms Lucia Farrugia spoke on how important bees were to make honey, beeswax and pollinate plants. The students learnt about the different types of bees found in Malta. They also discussed the environmental impact if bees were to be totally wiped out. The children also participated in a role play to understand the different roles of bees and how they communicate using dances and pheromones.

For the second week Ms Anita Farrugia, a graduate from the Department of Chemistry, performed some interesting and colourful demonstrations. This session included a fun way of explaining different states of matter, followed by the fireproof balloon flame tests to demonstrate the different amount of heat required to pop the balloon when filled with different materials. Following that, colourful flame tests were conducted to demonstrate how different ions in a compound can be identified based on the colour of the flame. The session ended with an exothermic reaction, involving Elephant's toothpaste,



On the third week the demonstrations focused on our planet and the crust structure. Ms Daniela Farrugia, a PhD student from the Department of Geosciences conducted an intriguing explanation of how plate tectonics work using oreo biscuits. She also explained how an earthquake is recorded using seismograms. After installing a seismogram in class, participants were invited to create an 'earthquake' by jumping up and down together to record the different

spikes on the seismograph. They also created their own seismogram and recorded a spike created by a tennis ball. Following that an explanation of primary and secondary waves and how they propagate was given in a very engaging way since participants had to act as particles. Finally, the students helped replicate a volcanic eruption using bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. Volcanoes were constructed during Design and Technology classes prior to the session.



The following two sessions were dedicated to water. During these sessions participants were involved in messy experiments outdoors. Three scientists from the Department of Physics, namely Mr Julian Bonello, Mr William Hicklin and Ms. Daphne Anne Pollacco, prepared fun sessions for participants



including the upside down water cup, gravel water filter, non-Newtonian fluid. The children also participated in a water purifying experiment which explained how reverse osmosis works, what happens with filtration and how salt is extracted from seawater.

The last session was dedicated to the Solar system and was taken care of by Ms Deandra Cutajar. The students participated in a quiz on all the planets. They also created a solar system using balloons and newspapers. These planets were constructed during Design and Technology classes, prior to lesson. These were mounted on broomsticks for display in each classroom.



## Outings

Outings occurred on a Thursday. The idea behind the excursions was to learn by seeing. The students were also taken to a variety of places of interest linked with vocation, culture, history and science.

### *Excursion 1 – Junior College*

For the first excursion (**14<sup>th</sup> July**) the students were taken to the Junior College, Msida. They were welcomed by the principal Mr Paul Xuereb, who underlined that the Junior College was a stepping stone that could lead them to go on to the University of Malta. After a short tour of the premises, the students were met by CRC board member Dr. Noel Vella who conducted a number of Chemistry demonstrations for the students in the Junior College lab.



### *Excursion 2 – Kordin & Marsa Fire station*

On the **21<sup>st</sup> July**, Civil Protection invited us to the Marsa Fire Station, where the students were shown the different equipment used by the Marine Section of the Civil Protection. While touring the quarters the students were told about the different accidents that the Search and Rescue Officers have to deal with from fire, car accidents, oil spills and biologically hazardous material. At the Marine and Kordin Fire Station students were shown different equipment, how these were used and when.



### *Excursion 3 – Valletta*

On the **28<sup>th</sup> July**, the students were taken to Valletta where they visited the State Rooms and the Armoury at the Grand Master's Palace. They were also taken to Upper Barakka to enjoy a quick break before heading back to the centre.

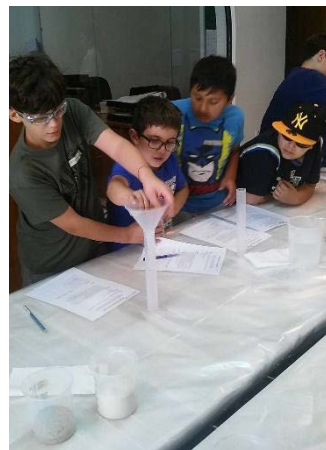


### *Excursion 4 – University of Malta – Faculty of ICT, Engineering, & Institute of Earth Systems.*

On the **4<sup>th</sup> of August**, the students were taken to the University of Malta, where they were split into three groups and taken to different workshops organised by the Faculties of ICT and Engineering as well as the Institute of Earth Systems. Classes E & F were welcomed by the Department of Systems and Control Engineering within the Faculty of Engineering where they tried programming and assembled a Mindstorm Robot. At the Faculty of ICT the students



explored some of the possibilities offered by virtual reality. Classes C & D were first taken to the Faculty of ICT and were later received by Dr. Belinda Gambin at the Institute of Earth Systems where they could explore the different components of different types of soil. The younger students were shown the conductive properties of various materials at the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering, right after they visited the Institute of Earth Systems.



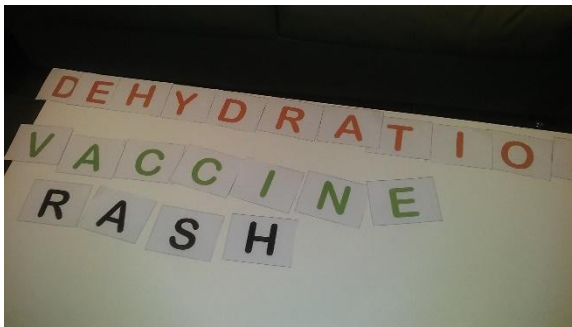
### *Excursion 5 – Buskett*

On the **6<sup>th</sup> August** the students were invited to Buskett by Mr. Neville Ebejer from MSDEC Park, and Birdlife Malta. Mr Ebejer spoke about the different trees found in Buskett. They also collected different types of seeds produced by the trees there. Some of these seeds were collected and planted in a small pot which the students took home with them. Once the seedlings grew they were to be taken back to Buskett for the staff there to plant. BirdLife volunteers set the students on a nature trail so that they could learn about the different habitats of reptiles and insects found in Buskett.



### *Excursion 6 - Malta Life Science Park*

On the **18<sup>th</sup> of August**, the students were taken on an outing for the last time during XjenzaMania. They visited the Malta Life Science Park where they were shown over the premises. They were also involved in two games. In one they learnt about the different medicines available, and their characteristics. In the other they learnt how to extract the DNA from bananas. Some of the students were adamant that when they grow up they would find a job in one of the laboratories on site.



## Adult courses organized by CRC

### Insahhu l-Familja li nhobbu

During this academic year two short courses were organized by the Cottonera Resource Centre. The first course was organised in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology and was entitled ‘*Insahhu l-Familja li nhobbu*’. The sessions were held between the 16<sup>th</sup> of October and the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2015 every Friday from 6.30 to 8.00 pm. The intention was capacity building among community leaders working in the parishes found in the Cottonera and surrounding area. The sessions dealt with the changing structure of the family structure and communication between family members

#### “Insahhu l-Familja li inhobbu”

♦ Kors dwar il-Familja ♦

organizzat mill-Fakultà tat-Teologija u c-Centru tar-Riżorsi fil-Kottonera

Ottubru – Dicembru 2015

Suggetti ghad-diskussjoni:

Il-komunikazzjoni ♦ l-inkluzjoni ♦ l-Ispiritwalità u l-imhabba fil-familja ♦ l-fejqaq wara s-separazzjoni / d-divorzju ♦ id-dinjità fil-familja u fir-relazzjonijiet ♦ l-aspetti legali marbuta mal-familja ♦ il-vjolenza fil-familja ♦ l-inżul u t-tlajja tal-adozzjoni ♦ ix-xejriet u t-tibdiliet tal-familja f'Malta.

16.10.15 ♦ “Il-preżent u l-futur tal-familja”	Dr Jo sAnn Cutajar (Direttur CRC)
23.10.15 ♦ “Ahna lkoll familja”	Mr Bernard Cauchi (Ghalliem)
30.10.15 ♦ “LGBT fil-familja”	Mr Chris Vella ( <i>Drachma</i> )
06.11.15 ♦ “Nixtieqek tismaghni”	Ms Michelle Camilleri ( <i>Social Worker</i> )
13.11.15 ♦ “L-imhabba taghmilna ugwali”	Mr Claudio Laferla (OASI)
20.11.15 ♦ “Il-Psikologija tal-familja”	Ms Angele Licari (Psikologa)
27.11.15 ♦ “Inwaqq fu l-vjolenza fil-familja”	Dr Marceline Naudi (Lecturer)
04.12.15 ♦ “L-adozzjoni u l-familja”	Ms Desiree Spiteri (Adoption Opportunities)
11.12.15 ♦ “U t-tfal min se jiehu hsiebhom?”	Ms Elaine Micallef (Child Care Services)
18.12.15 ♦ “Nerga’ nqum u nkompli hajti”	Ms Christine Galea ( <i>Genesis 2</i> )

Detalji dwar il-Kors :

- Jibda l-Gimgha 16 ta’ Ottubru fis-6.30 pm
- Nhar ta’ Gimgha: Tahdita ta’ 40 minuta u diskussjoni ta’ 20 minuta
- Gewwa c-Centru ta’ Riżorsi fil-Kottonera, Triq San Dwardu, Fortini, Vittoriosa

## Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa

Prof. Peter Mayo, a leading international expert on adult education, organized a short course on the Holy Week. This theme served as a springboard for venturing into different areas of enquiry and knowledge, according to the organizer. Holy Week was used as theme to help capture the communities' imagination. Political education, with a strong historical foundation, featured prominently in the 'Holy Week' project. One session focused on Imperialism at the time and used this issue to discuss present incidences of colonialism and neo-colonialism. Another session was on the artistic aspect of Holy Week, led by Fine Arts Museum Curator. The session by Dr Marco Galea on theatre was followed by Mons Alfred Vella on Spirituality, Ms Anna Spiteri focused on environmental issues in Holy Week, while Prof. Anthony Bonanno led a discussion on Roman imperialism. Ms Nathalie Grima looked at the role of Women/gender in Holy Week. Eric Montfort and Dr Albert Bell dealt with music (solemn music, marches and rock) and Michael Grech discussed Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Vangelo Secondo Matteo* and compared it with Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ*. All the sessions generated much discussion. The intention was for both session leader and participants to move 'from the known to the unknown' according to Prof Mayo. Prof Mayo turned this communal expression and manifestation of the 'popular creative spirit' into an educational event.

Sessions held during *Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa*

Date	Session	Speaker
11/02/2016	Purcissjonijiet tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa	Dr. Joseph Grima
15/02/2016	Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa fl-arti	Mr. Sandro Debono
19/02/2016	Il-Kolonjalizmu ta' dak iz-zmien, aktar tard u llum	Prof. Peter Mayo
22/02/2016	It-Teatru u l-Gimgha Mqaddsa fil-qasam storiku internazzjonali u lokali	Dr. Marco Galea
25/02/2016	Il-Palestina u l-Imperu Ruman f' dak iz-zmien	Prof. Anthony Bonanno
29/02/2016	Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa u l-Ambjent	Ms. Anna Spiteri
03/03/2016	It-tifsira spiritwali tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa	Mons. Alfred Vella
07/03/2016	In-nisa fil-Gimgha Mqaddsa	Ms. Nathalie Grima
10/03/2016	Films dwar il-Passjoni u Qawmien ta' Kristu	Mr. Micheal Grech
14/03/2016	Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa u l-Muzika: Solenni, Marci u rock	Prof. Albert Bell & Mr. Eric Montfort



**Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa:**  
Spiritwalita', Kultura, Politika u Storja

Iċ-Ċentru tar-Riżorsi fil-Kottonera qed jistednuk għal diskussjonijiet fuq aspetti differenti tal-Gimgha Mqaddsa. Fosthom: Purcissjonijiet, Storja, Arti, Mużika u hafna oħrajn.

Is-sessjonijiet huma **bla ħlas**.

Kull nhar ta' Tnejn u Ħamis fis - 18.00 mill - 11 ta' Frar sal - 14 ta' Marzu

Għal aktar informazzjoni ċemplu fuq **2340 7801** jew ibaghtu email fuq **crc@um.edu.mt**

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## Public Lecture on Housing

The CRC also organized a public lecture on social housing. Dr. Kurt Scerri conducted this public lecture that was held at the Cottonera Resource Centre on the 6th April, 2016. During the lecture, Dr. Scerri went over the Maltese Legislation that controls renting of residential properties, rights and obligations of tenants. The CRC team felt that this issue needed to be discussed since the majority of the clients who visited the Legal Clinic were concerned about the rising rents in the area. This issue was also brought up with a number of ministers who visited the Forum Kommita' Bormliza.



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## *Il-Housing F'Malta*

*minn Kurt Xerri*

Kemm tista' togħla il-kera kull sena?

Il-kera tista' tintired?

Min huwa responsabbli mit-tiswijiet fuq il-post mikri?

Jekk inti tgħix f'post mikri u tixtieq tkun taf aktar dwar x'tgħid il-liġi u x'inhuma drittijiet tiegħek, ejja għal din il-laqgħa li ser issir:

Nhar il-Ġimgħa 8 t'April fi 6 ta' filgħaxija għewwa ċ-Ċentru ta' Riżorsi fil-Kottonera.

Matul din il-laqgħa ser jiġi diskuss il-*housing* f'Malta, l-kirjiet residenzjali privati u l-iżviluppi ġurisprudenzjali f'rigward ta' kirjiet antiki.

Kurt Xerri huwa riċerkatur fil-livell ta' dottorat fil-Katedra tal-*Housing* fi hdan l-Università Rovira i Virgili f'Tarragona (Spanja). L-istudju tiegħu jiffoka fuq il-*housing policy* ta' Malta ta' wara l-gwerra, b'mod partikolari fuq il-liġi tal-kera. Huwa gradwat fil-liġi u għandu wkoll livell ta' Masters mil-Università ta' Malta.

Huwa kien ġie appuntat bħala riċerkatur fil-*European TENLaw Project* ikkordinat mill-Istitut tal-Università Ewropea għewwa Bremen u pparteċipa wkoll fi proġett pilota tal-Unjoni Ewropea li jgħib l-isem ta' *Preventing Evictions and Homelessness*.



## Kids on Campus

Once again this year the University of Malta sponsored 4 primary students from St. Margaret College to attend Kids on Campus. The objective of this exercise is to help children from the Cottonera area develop new friendships outside the area. CRC liaises with the Head of Schools who in turn, nominates the students. This year four students between the ages of 5 and 6 years benefitted from this opportunity. On the 20th of June a meeting was held at the Cottonera Resource Centre, where the Director of Kids on Campus, Ms. Dragana Gnjatovic, the Principal of St. Margaret and the Director of the CRC addressed the parents of the nominated students. Ms Gnjatovic gave some information about the programme while CRC staff coordinated transport arrangements.

After the programme Ms. Gnjatovic informed the centre that the students integrated very well within their classes and had a very positive experience. She however pointed out that of the four nominated students, only three had attended the summer school. This occurred because the parent felt that the student had to wake up too early to be able to attend Kids on Campus. The parents of the students who had attended Kids On Campus were also approached. These all had positive comments for the programme. The project was a success with most of the nominated students thoroughly enjoying their experience with some even expressing a desire to return for the summer school next year.

## University of the Third Age

The University of the Third Age sessions were held every Thursday from 9 am to 11 am. People who are 60 years and over attend. During 2015-16 the following sessions were held:

U3E 256:	The Maltese Legal System
Lecturer:	Prof. Kevin Aquilina
No. of sessions held:	8
Dates:	8 <sup>th</sup> October – 26 <sup>th</sup> November
Average attendance:	18

U3E 250:	Understanding Dementia
Lecturer:	Mr. Anthony Scerri
No. of sessions held:	8
Dates:	4 <sup>th</sup> December – 4 <sup>th</sup> February
Average attendance:	13

U3E 150:	Development of Malta's Fortifications
Lecturer:	Mr. Vincent Zammit
No. of sessions held:	7
Dates:	11 <sup>th</sup> February – 14 <sup>th</sup> April
Average attendance:	19

U3E 226:	Maltese Artists
Lecturer:	Dr. Charlene Vella
No. of sessions held:	6
Dates:	21 <sup>st</sup> April – 2nd June
Average attendance:	11

The CRC liaises with Prof Troisi and Mr Said who run the University of the Third Age in summer to decide which courses to offer in the subsequent academic year. CRC takes care to promote the courses with community members.

### Lifelong Learning Courses

During 2015-16 three different courses organised by the Directorate for Lifelong Learning and Early School Leavers were held at the CRC. These adult learning programmes included:-

Course	Level	Duration	No. of Students
Lace Making – Maltese Bobbin Lace	MQF Level 1	October 2015 – June 2016	11
Maltese Cultural and Natural Heritage		October 2015 – February 2016	18
English	Entry Level Basic Literacy	October 2015 – June 2016	16

CRC liaises with the directorate to decide which courses to offer each subsequent year. CRC promotes then takes care to promote said courses among its contacts and other community members.

## Italia Film Festival

The Italia Film Festival was held at the Cottonera Resource Centre on Friday 4th December. The film Convitto Falcone was projected with the famous director Pasquale Scimeca attending the event and addressing the audience. This festival is organized every by Signor Arturo Minghardi, a resident of Bormla.



## L-Għana tas-Sirena

This was a socio-cultural project organized by NGO VO/774 Home Away from Home financed by the Creative Community organized by the Arts Council Malta, in collaboration with LEAP Centre ghax-Xlokk, Valletta 2018 Foundation, University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre, Radju Kottoner and the Senglea Parish. The CRC helped organize a talk which was given by Ms Lina Brockdorff on ‘Serena u Serenetti’ at the St. Philip’s Oratory, Senglea in 20th October 2015.

## European Voluntary System

Due to the number of projects the CRC is constantly on the lookout for volunteers who can help out at the CRC. During the academic year 2015-2016, the CRC successfully applied for funds that would allow the hosting of two French volunteers who will join the CRC as from October 2016 until October of the following year. The volunteers were carefully selected from a pool of applicants who applied online to volunteer at the CRC. Those shortlisted were interviewed on Skype when this was possible.

The project entitled *Education Through Life* will be coordinated together with Centru Tbexbix as our sending partner. During the application process the staff of the CRC attended a number of meetings with EUPA members. Mr. Darren Grasso and Ms. Mandy Falzo, from MEUSEC as well as Centru Tbexbix aided the CRC in the filling in of the application form for this project.

#### Meetings related with EVS

Date	Entity	Objective
27th January	EUPA	Meeting was about the documents needed to apply for mobility projects.
13th April	EUPA	SALTO Seminar - The procedures and responsibilities involved when coordinating EU funded mobility schemes were described.
16th April	Centru Tbexbix	To see if they can act as sending and receiving organization for CRC
18th April	Project Support Unit	During this meeting the possibility of utilising EVS scheme was discussed. Projects Support role and involvement in the project was discussed.
11th May	Controle-Z	Skype meeting to discuss role of EVS volunteer, Maggy
14th July	Centru Tbexbix	To discuss how to administer EVS finances
29th July	EUPA	Erasmus and Grant Award Ceremony
16th September	Centre Tbexbix	Find accommodation for EVS
28th September	Mark Debono, Geoff Saliba	How to administer funds.

## Collaborating with other entities within the community

- **Grupp Qawsalla**

Grupp Qawsalla meet regularly at Access. CRC helps Access find speakers for some of the sessions held for this group. CRC procured speakers for the sessions underlined below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Conducted By:</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Social Wellbeing	Dr. Marta Sant
29 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Domestic Violence	Dr. Marceline Naudi
8 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	LGBTI	Mr. Chris Vella
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	Changing Families	Dr. Andreana Dibben

- **Senglea Group**

During this year the Cottonera Resource Centre organized several sessions for the Senglea Women's Club. These sessions included:-.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Conducted By:</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Counselling	Ms. Sylvana Briffa
3rd March 2016	Breast Cancer Awareness	Ms. Esther Sant
14th January 2016	Domestic Violence	Dr. Marceline Naudi

- **Prima Klassi**

LEAP Xlokk together with St. Margaret's College organised the project Prima Klassi. The course that was run during the academic year 2015-2016 was hosted at the Cottonera Resource Centre. The aim of the course was to motivate those who attended to reintegrate in the labour market. The sessions were held every Friday morning, with the session being split into two parts. During the first part, Ms. Butters, a retired English teacher would conduct an English session. In the second part the lesson focused on computer literacy, self-development, home management and employability skills.

## Community engagement and outreach

To be able to operate in the Cottonera and Kalkara area, the CRC needs to be in constant touch with what is going on. To do so, CRC representatives attend a number of meetings and participate in activities held in the area.

Meetings are held with different stakeholders for a number of purposes:

1. To find out what different entities, groups or individuals within the community need
2. To find out what services other entities within the community or beyond are offering
3. To inform entities, groups and individuals of the services or courses offered at the CRC

4. To advocate for policy or administrative changes when CRC team becomes aware that certain groups within the communities found in Cottonera and Kalkara area are being short-changed. In fact, this year we worked on two issues, namely facilitating the entry into of non-traditional students at tertiary level. For this issue, various persons were approached at University to ask them to create courses which are of interest to people from the area. Others were approached to explore ways of helping non-traditional students accrue a diploma/degree over time and incrementally by attending different short courses offered by UoM. We also explored alternative methods of assessment for this type of student. Furthermore, as underlined before we also adopted an advocacy role when we raised awareness about the problems caused by rising rents in the housing private sector in the area. This issue was discussed with various ministers, NGOs as well as the media. Eventually it was taken on board by a number of NGOs.
5. Explore the potential through the President's Trust of creating and implementing various community projects in other areas of Malta.

### Community Engagement

Entity	Dates	Objectives
LEAP	26th October; 15th January; 2nd September	Meet other service providers in the area to discuss certain needs in the community and how different service providers can meet these.
Appogg	9th and 20th October	Discuss resources CRC can offer in term or space and finding speakers
President's Trust	14th October; 24th November; 3rd, 10th, 15th December; 15th, 20th January; 4th, 8th, 23rd February; 11th March, 7th, 20th, 28th, April; 6th, 7th, 11th, 18th, 20th May; 3rd, 30th June; 27th, 28th July; 4th, 11th, 31st August; 15th September	Help in the creation, setting up and implementation of different community projects. Present also for the launch of Prince's Trust International.
Forum Laqgha Bormliza	30th October, 17th December, 9th March, 16th June, 28th July	Discuss community issues with different politicians and suggest what can be done to rectify this. This year the Forum met with Hon Farrugia Minister for Family and Social Solidarity, Hon Mizzi and HE President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca.

ARIS	27th January	A networking meeting post ARIS, was hosted by LEAP at their centre.
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## Creating or ameliorating services

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 following meetings took place:

### University of Malta

Date	Entity	Objective
26th October	Institute of Mediterranean Studies	Discussed ways of promoting the British heritage found in the Cottonera and Kalkara area
18th December, 17th March	Institute of Tourism, Travel and Culture	Discussed the potential of creating a course on cultural appreciation
3rd, 4th February	Faculty of Education Librarian	Acquisition of books for CRC Library
5th, 23rd February; 28th April	Quality Assurance Unit	Met with Senior Executive to underline the factors which undermine the quality of services offered at the CRC. Attended workshops and lecture on the issue.
16th, 23rd March	Communications	Create name and logo for XjenzaMania
24th March	UoM Main Library	Job Shadowing at the library. Learning the library system and the procedures involved when lending or returning books.
21st April	Centre for the Liberal Arts and Sciences	The meeting was convened to explore ways of enabling non-traditional mature students to acquire a tertiary education.
24th May	Rectorate - Rector elect Pro-rector elect (Students, staff affairs and outreach)	This meeting was set up to explain what the CRC does to the new rector and find out whether the rector was still keen on sponsoring students from the Cottonera + Kalkara area to follow Kids on Campus summer school

24th May; 7th July	IT services	Acquire software for laptops
20th June, 4th July	Human Resources	Ameliorating HR issues
22nd June, 7th September	Health and safety	Risk assessment of premises
4th July	Estates and works	Finding computer desks for CRC and arranging with electrician on best plan for electricity outlets
13th July	MUHC	Promote the CRC as a potential venue for courses offered by this entity. Discuss courses which might interest the people residing in the Cottonera + Kalkara area.
19th July	Rectorate, MEDE, Estates and Works	To discuss the electricity issue at the St Margaret College and CRC
12th September	Rectorate Strategic Planning and Enterprise	The meeting was convened to seek help to draw up future strategy for CRC
16th September	Financial adviser to rectorate	The meeting was convened to find out how the services offered by the CRC can be replicated in other areas of Malta.
16th September	Library	Setting up the software necessary for the running of the library.
16th September	Project Support Unit	Day seminar to showcase the funding opportunities that are currently available.

Meetings were also held with other entities concerning the acquisition of resources or to promote the CRC as a potential venue where courses can be held. Meetings held with entities from the public sector consisted of:

#### Public sector

Date	Entity	Objective
29th January	Directorate Lifelong Learning	Discuss which courses can be offered at CRC
10th March	MCST - Esplora	Promote CRC services and discuss possible collaboration on science related projects



23rd June	St. Margaret College	The possibility of implementing a virtual calendar where the activities of the different entities would be highlighted. The virtual calendar will be set on Google Drive with physical copies printed and attached at the main notice board.
13th July	Malta Enterprise	Explore whether Malta Enterprise is interested in financing some of the projects run by CRC
13th September	MCA	Explore the possibility of running some of the courses the MCA offers

Occasionally, entities approach the CRC to explore the potential of holding courses there or to promote a service. Usually CRC approaches these entities to find out what they can offer or to buy products.

#### Private Sector and NGOs

Date	Entity	Objective
8 January	NCW	Explored the possibility of offering the employability course NCW offers in Blata l-Bajda at CRC
18 March	Private individual	Acquisition of books for CRC library
22 March, 19 May	IMS	Acquisition of WeDo 2
12 May	Peppin	Explore the potential of providing parents with transport to and from CRC for XjenzaMania. Other enterprises were contacted, but Peppin wanted to meet in person.
19 May, 6 June	Microsoft	Train mentors in the use of Microsoft software

### Promotion of CRC services and courses

The services and courses offered by the CRC have to be constantly promoted to ensure that the public know about them. A multi-method approach is adopted. Personnel go to promote these on radio and TV programmes, or write an article which is then published on NOC or local

newspapers. The social media is crucial to ensure that the public knows which services or courses are being offered (namely the public service intranet, NOC, CRC Facebook page and website as well as online contacts CRC has amalgamated over the years). Word of mouth and participation in community events works better with certain sectors of the public. CRC also approaches local councils, parish priests and NGOs to promote these services and courses. Paid adverts were used to advertise XjenzaMania and to recruit the human resources needed for this and the Revision Classes.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Contact person</b>	<b>Station/ newspaper</b>	<b>Topic</b>
3 November	Dorian Cassar	Radju Kottoner	Legal clinic
18 November	Claudette Abela Baldacchino	Radio One	Active Ageing + U3E
19 November	Claudette Abela Baldacchino	Radio One	Legal clinic
19 November	Pauline Miceli	Radju Malta 1	Legal clinic
1 December	Claudette Abela Baldacchino	Radio One	Counselling + Transcultural counselling
3 December	Claudette Abela Baldacchino	One TV	Active ageing + U3E
27 December	Sonia Young	RTK	Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa
January - March	Dorian Cassar	Radju Kottoner	Promotion of Services.
3 February	Claudette Abela Baldacchino	Radio One	Il-Gimgha Mqaddsa
9 March	Teodor Reljic	Malta Today	Holy Week puts 'community education' into focus
26 March	Prof. Peter Mayo	Times of Malta	Enquiry and Knowledge
May	John Paul Cordina	Living the Vision bookazine	Bridging Gaps

27 May	Dulcima Aquilina	Campus FM	XjenzaMania
15 June	Dr. Andrew Azzopardi	Independent	Cottonera Shines
7 August	Communications	Times of Malta	Building up 'Steam' at Cottonera
19 September	Cutajar & Farrugia	UoM Newspoint	XjenzaMania STEAM summer camp at the University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre

Community outreach is an alternative means of promoting courses and services

Entity	Dates	Objectives
St Thomas More College, Blossom Foundation	9 October	Promote legal clinic and counselling
Senglea Primary School	26 April	Promote CRC services
St Thomas More College	26 April	Promote CRC services
Bormla Primary	26 April	Promote CRC services
Verdala Secondary School	27 April	Promotion of CRC services
Paola Primary B	3 May	Promotion of CRC services
Zabbar Primary B	5 May	Promotion of CRC services
Laqgha Nisa Romolu Separati, Bormla	28 May	CRC already works with women's groups found in Senglea and Birgu. So this year a meeting was set up to find out what a Bormla women's group needs with regards to capacity development.
Migrant Women's Association, Malta	7 September	This group is very interested in accessing the services provided by CRC such as the revision classes, transcultural counselling and legal clinic. An alternative location will have to be found since the bulk of the migrants are concentrated in the centre or north of Malta.
Science in the City	30 September	Promote XjenzaMania

## Visits by foreign universities

Visitors from Kingston University paid a visit to the CRC on 16th May 2016 led by Prof Annie Hughes. Before the visit Prof Hughes was taken to meet administrators at UoM so that she could discuss which measures Kingston University adopts to attract students from certain non-traditional groups and ensure that they remain and do well at university level.

## EU COST Training School Appearance Matters

The Gender Studies Department, within the University of Malta, approached the Cottonera Resource Centre in order to host the EU COST Training School Appearance Matters between the 9th and the 11th of November 2015. During the three day workshop, the participants explored appearance dissatisfaction in marginalised and socially disadvantaged groups.

The organisation of the event was split between the CRC and the Gender Studies Department, with the Centre taking care of logistics regarding to transport, food, WIFI, accommodation and room allocation. There were around twenty participants, excluding the visiting speakers, coming from various countries in Europe. The money accrued was used to buy educational resources.



## Train the Trainers Workshop on Themes from Grease

In a meeting organized by Dr Susan Ross, the cultural attaché at the US Embassy held on the 26th February, it was decided that a number of workshops should be organized by Astra Productions, Gender Studies Department and CRC on gender role training with youth leaders. The first meeting was held on April 15th, 2016 where Mr. Christopher Gatt, director of Grease musical at the Astra Theatre conducted the first workshop. The next session which took place in May was led by Dr Brenda Murphy. Two sessions were held at the CRC to teach youth workers how to use Grease to discuss issues concerning sexuality, relationships and media portrayal.

## Use of funds

During 2015-2016 the Cottonera Resource Centre invested in a number of resources to enable it to ameliorate the quality of the services provided. The Centre invested in a pull-up banner used during activities outside the centre including CRC promotion, community outreach, etc.

In addition LEGO WeDo V2 Robotic Kits were purchased with the objective of exposing young participants to robotics and programming. A computer lab was also set up. Here the University's Capital Funds were used to purchase the necessary hardware. CRC in turn paid for the Microsoft Office license which were installed onto the computers together with Minecraft and Scratch 2.

## Maintenance and cleaning services

During the academic year 2015/2016 some maintenance work were performed at the Cottonera Resource Centre. The major project was the setting of the computer lab in Room 1. This was built in collaboration with the IT and electricity division. Estate & Works department were also involved. The project was finalised in July 2016.

When the Centre lost its permanent cleaning staff in August 2015, a cleaner was sent to conduct cleaning duties twice a week for two hours. During the summer, three cleaners visited the centre every day for two hours in order to maintain the cleaning standards required for the smooth running of the project.

## Research and presentation

Two papers were prepared for V18 publications by the director. The director took part in the Cultural Mapping Conference which took place on the 22nd-23rd of October 2015, Mediterranean Conference Centre to present a poster about the methodology used in this research. On the first day she gave a poster presentation on the 22nd October and acted as rapporteur and moderator on the second day of said conference. On the 15th of April 2016 the video and book on Cultural Mapping was launched at the Auberge d'Italie, Valletta. The second paper still has to be published.

The director was also approached by L-Ghaqda Veterani Laburista to give a speech on what can lead to poverty when people become pensioners, and how poverty can affect the elderly physically, mentally and socially. The presentation took place during a seminar entitled *Il-Faqar u l-Anzjani* which was held at the Labour Party Headquarters.

The CRC director also conducted informal research women in STEM at university level. A number of meetings and seminars took place to find out means of increasing more women in these areas. These meetings took place on the 4th and 5th February, 1st and 14th March, 18th April, as well as on the 6th and 24th of May.

A number of meetings took place at the Faculty for Social Wellbeing to decide on a topic and methodology for a project which can be undertaken by the different entities within this faculty. The director was involved in choosing a locality, project and methodology. A number of meetings for this project took place on 6th and 25th January, 17th February, 9th March, 27th April, 4th and 23rd May, and 12th July.

## Collaboration with International Scholars

- Prof Mary Durfee from Michigan Tech who provides CRC with Pavlov students every year
- Prof Susan Hirsch from the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University who is interested in how the public learns about their civic rights.
- Prof Annie Hughes, Kingston University who works in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Directorate in Kingston to promote a more inclusive framework.
- Prof Paul Downes who advises the CRC on how to turn this centre into a centre of excellence for lifewide learning.

## EPALE Awards

CRC applied for an EPALE (European Platform for Adult Learning) Award under Community Learning Initiative category in August 2016. This award was organized by the Directorate for Lifelong Learning. The aim of this initiative is to give visibility to best practices in adult education and training in Malta. This award was short listed by the evaluation board and subsequently the director had to participate in another evaluation session during Presentation Day which took place on the 2nd of September at Le Meridien St. Julian's.

## Reports

The CRC has to showcase its projects in a number of reports written by state entities to be presented at EU level. These consisted of the Lifelong Learning Strategy - Progress Report. CRC contribution was submitted on the 25th of March 2016. Another report was forwarded to the Ministry for Education and Employment's Framework for the Education Strategy for Malta 2014-2024 on the 5th of October 2015.