

University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre

Director's Report
Academic year
2013-2014

Introduction

The Cottonera Resource Centre which was inaugurated on the 23 January 2013, continued with the sterling work started in the previous academic year. In October there was a change in the chairperson and the director.

From the end of March to the beginning of May 2014 the only person running the Centre was Dr Cutajar since Ms Pamela Vella Scicluna went out on maternity leave. Ms Maria Gilson joined the Centre in May 2014 and eventually Ms Vella Scicluna returned in August 2014 on reduced hours.

For the 2013-2014 academic year there was also a reshuffle on the Cottonera Resource Centre board. For the academic year of 2013-2014 the board consisted of:

Chairperson: Ms Andreanna Dibben

Director: Dr JosAnn Cutajar
Dr Maria Attard
Dr Leonie Baldacchino
Dr Ing. John Betts
Mr Stephen Cachia
Prof. Carmel Cefai
Prof. Peter Mayo
Ms Maria McNamara
Mr Simon Sammut
Mr Joe Scerri

The board met on the 18 of October 2013 and 17 of June 2014.

Some adjustments were made to the building in which the Cottonera Resource Centre is found. A sign was affixed to the façade of the ex-secondary boys' school to denote where the Centre is located in September 2014. During the same month room 5 was changed into a counselling room, while a platform lift was constructed to facilitate access to the Centre.

Revision Sessions in Scholastic Year 2013-2014

Description

The Cottonera Resource Centre in collaboration with St. Margaret College organized a set of study groups for Form 4 and 5 secondary students. The secondary schools within the college in question provided the CRC with a list of students who were felt they needed help with particular subjects. This year we included Form 4 students within this project. Revision sessions for various subjects were organized where the participants had the opportunity to work in a group or on a one to one basis with their tutors. The tutors who participated in this project were all University of Malta students who specialized in the subject they were teaching. The tutors applied after responding to a message forwarded by the Registrar at the University of Malta. The sessions were held at the CRC on weekdays between three thirty until six thirty in the afternoon.

Objectives

- To help them grasp and consolidate the issues and topics they learnt at school.
- To assist students with their studies.
- To ensure that the secondary students who participated in this project cope better with their academic work
- To introduce different study methods.

Applicants & Attendance

There were 56 students (12 boys, 44 girls)

Subject	Total no. of lessons	Average no. of students	No. of tutors
Maltese	16	4	2
English	9	5	1
Mathematics Form 5	12	2	1
Mathematics Form 4	8	5	1
Physics	16	3	2
Biology	9	2	1
Chemistry	9	3	1

Evaluation

The secondary students who registered for the course were phoned during the summer to get their feedback on the following issues:

- Duration of lesson: all the students agreed that the duration of the lesson (lessons were between an hour and an hour and a half) were satisfactory.
- Time of lesson: students who attended the Zejtun secondary school used to find it difficult to arrive at the CRC on time when lessons started at 4 in the afternoon.
- Homework: some of the secondary students grumbled that the homework given by the tutors added to their load, while others wished that their tutor had given them follow up work to do at home.
- Delivery of lesson: the students enjoyed working on past papers since this helped to prepare them for the SEC examinations. They praised certain tutors, especially the one who taught Maltese who showed a keen interest in their personal wellbeing, while the grumbled about certain tutors who did not always turn up for the lessons.
- Notes: some of the students felt that the tutor should have given them some notes to help them in their studies. This opinion was expressed mainly by those who attended the Physics lessons.
- Some students mentioned that they used to find the lessons sometimes boring when the tutor spent some time helping out students who could not understand certain concepts.

Tutors were also contacted during the summer. The objective of this evaluation exercise was to find out how the services could be ameliorated during the next academic year.

- Duration of lesson: some tutors felt that the session should be lengthened to a two hour session since in the time stipulated above they could not cover all the material.
- Students' attendance: the tutors complained that the students' attendance was very often erratic and inconsistent. Some argued that there were times when they came for the lessons but no students turned up.
- Delivery of lesson: tutors sometimes had to repeat the same lesson week after week when different students turned up.
- Suggestions:-
 - The tutors suggested that a schedule of the revision lessons should be sent to each student and their parents. When revisions are made to this schedule, students and parents should be advised via e-mail.
 - Commencement of such sessions should be during the beginning of the scholastic year in order to boost session effectiveness.
 - There should be more than one volunteer for each subject in order to help those students who require a considerable amount of time to understand.
 - Students who attend the revision lessons need to be regular in their attendance and the notes and homework given to them should be perused.

Public Lectures

A series of public lectures were held throughout the year. This year the objective was to give non-academic researchers the opportunity to share their research with the general public. All these public lectures were recorded and then aired on Campus FM. Podcasts of the public lectures concerned are also found on the Cottonera Resource Centre website (see <http://www.um.edu.mt/crc/publiclectures>). Public lectures tend to take place on the last Friday of different months between 7 to 9 pm. The public lectures are advertised through NOC, newspapers, social media, local council networks as well as the civil service intranet.

The public lectures included:

- Maltese Traditional Instruments delivered by Mro. Ruben Zahra on the 24 January 2014.
- Two anti-fascist exiles at St. Edward's College delivered by Giorgio Peresso on the 28 February 2014.
- Mid-djaletti sal-letteratura delivered by Miriam Cassar in collaboration with members of the Cirkolu Kulturali Freirjan and with interventions from Dr Adrian Grima on the 28 March 2014.
- Possible meanings behind Maltese Coat of Arms delivered by Christopher Grech on 2 May 2014.
- Ic-Cirkolu Kulturali Freirjan – Ghannejja u Kittieba Zwieten delivered by Maria Brown with the participation of members of the Cirkolu Kulturali Freirjan on 30 May 2014.

On the whole, the average attendance rate tends to be around 18 people. During summer, the participants who attended the public lectures were contacted. They had very positive comments on the lecturing methodology and advised that the delivery of the lecture was intellectually challenging, understandable and stimulating. The participants were also asked which courses or subjects they were interested in. They mentioned the following interests:

Creative writing in English	Computer Troubleshooting	Philosophy
History, Culture and the Arts	Spanish	

Mid-Djalett sal-Letteratura

Silitet Letterarji u rakkonti bid-Djalett mal-grupp VersAghtini
fimkien mal-intervent ta' Dr. Adrian Grima

Minn: Ms Miriam Cassar
Data: 28 ta' Marzu 2014
Hin: 19.00hrs
Post: Centru ta' Rizzorsi fil-Kottonera,
Triq San Dwardu, Fortini, Birgu



Serata interattiva fejn bis-salha ta' silitet letterarji u rakkonti bid-djalett inwaxxu l-wirt lingwistiku Malti. Id-djalett jifflaha tiegħ fuq il-wart orali waqt il-letteratura toffrima firxa wisgħa ta' sugġenti taż-żambella tal-poetija u l-proza.

Bis-salha tal-perseveranza li nikkellma bid-djalett Maltin u Għawdsin, l-istudju tal-lingwa kellihom jobokku l-lingwa Maltija – lingwa li skond Vassalli u Dun Karm, ni għandha xejn inqas minn lingwi oħra.

Waqt is-serata kemm l-udjenza, kif ukoll l-awtur poeta Dr. Adrian Grima jkun mistiedna jagħtu l-fehmiet tagħhom dwar il-wirt orali u l-wirt letterarju Malti.



Giovanni Maria Kiteb



Attività b'riżq il-Malti organizzata minn VersAghtini f'fimkien maċ-Centru ta' Rizzorsi fil-Kottonera ta' l-Università ta' Malta.



Il-Cirkolu Kulturali Frejtan Għarnejja u kittieba żwieten f'faċċida bejn emancipazzjoni u domestikazzjoni Maria Brown

Matal din is-sessjoni, Maria Brown – 'visiting lecturer' l-Università ta' Malta u kandidata għad-dottorat – tispjega kif prinċipji tal-pedagoġija kritika zewweq l-ħdima ta' grupp ta' żwieten mixterka fit-Cirkolu Kulturali Frejtan (CKF). Il-CKF għandha l-għan li jgħid lill-mixterka jirrifletti l-mod kritiku dwar dak li rreżenndi jgħid mal-wart. Il-CKF hija il-litteratura u l-riflessjoni kritika bħala indispensabbli fi proċess ta' emancipazzjoni personali u kollettiva. Maria Brown tispjega kif l-inwaxxa ta' CKF jgħid lill-riflessjoni kritika tagħhom bħal jissiebu l-oħra u prebentazzjoni ta' poetiġi, proza u għana dwar il-temi li ddiskutaw fi hawn CKF. Tassewja ukoll l-analiżi pedagoġika li-ricerka tagħha pprebentat fi-istudju dwar kif din l-esperjenza tawwalx jew le għal liberazzjoni tal-mixterka kif sjegetta fi-l-ħsieb Frejtan. Uwal mill-mixterka ta' CKF ser jikkellmu dwar l-esperjenza tagħhom fit-CKF u jipprebentaw xi materjal pprebentat matal din l-esperjenza.

Il-CKF huwa proġett ta' sħubja mal-Professor Carmel Borg, l-Università ta' Malta u l-Kumill Lokali ta' Żejtun.

Data: Il-Gimgħa 30 ta' Meiju 2014
Hin: 19:00hrs
Post: Centru ta' Rizzorsi fil-Kottonera tal-Università ta' Malta, Triq San Dwardu, Fortini, Birgu
Kuntatt: ccc@um.edu.mt / 2340 7801



'Cirkolu Kulturali Frejtan' (The Freirean Cultural Circle):
Traditional folk singers and writers from Żejtun battling between emancipation and domestication
Maria Brown

Throughout this session, Maria Brown – 'visiting lecturer' at the University of Malta and Ph.D. candidate – will explain how principles of critical pedagogy coloured the engagement of a group of people from Żejtun members of 'Cirkolu Kulturali Frejtan' (Freirean Cultural Circle) (CKF). CKF targets participants' critical reflection based on links between one's immediate and broader contexts. CKF considers critical literacy and reflection as indispensable tools in the process of personal and collective emancipation. Maria Brown will explain how CKF participants express critical reflections by means of the thematic composition and presentation of poetry, prose and traditional folk song. She will also explain select findings of the pedagogical analysis of her research to question the emergence of Freirean liberation within CKF. Some CKF participants will talk about their experience in the cultural circle and present some artistic yields of the project.

CKF is a project run with the collaboration of Professor Carmel Borg, the University of Malta and Żejtun Local Council.

Date: Friday 30th May 2014
Time: 19:00hrs
Venue: Cottonera Resource Centre of the University of Malta, St. Edward Street, Fortini, Birgu
Contact: ccc@um.edu.mt / 2340 7801



University of the Third Age (U3E)

After consultation with Prof. Troisi, the director of the University of the Third Age, the first U3E sessions started in October 2013. Prof. Troisi chose the following sessions to be delivered at the Cottonera Resource Centre. The Parliamentary Secretariat for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing kindly partially funded the tuition costs of the courses given at the Cottonera Resources Centre. The sessions took place on Thursday between 9 and 11 in the morning. The following courses were given:

Course	Lecturer	Time frame
Knisja u Stat f' Malta	Rev. Dr Rene Camilleri	October-November 2013
Nicec u Kappelli fil-Kottonera	Mr Tony Terribile	December 13–February 2014
Mosaic picture of the cultural heritage of Malta	Mr John Sare	February – April 2014
The Pensions in Malta	Mr Joe Camilleri	April- June 2014

Participants

The number of applicants who registered at the Cottonera Resource Centre tended to come from the south of Malta. The table below delineates the locality from which the 33 applicants derived

Cottonera Area:-	Locality	No. of Applicants
	Cospicua	5
	Kalkara	3
	Senglea	0
	Vittoriosa	1

Other Localities:-	Locality	No. of Applicants
	Balzan	1
	B'Bugia	2
	Fgura	6
	Hamrun	1
	Paola	1
	Mosta	1
	Msida	2
	M'Skala	3
	Rabat	2
	Safi	1
	Sliema	3
	Żabbar	1

Attendance rate for each session

Not all of the courses given were popular with the persons who attended the U3E sessions. In fact the first two courses had a number of people who attended. After these two sessions, they started dwindling off. Some of the students said that the courses at the Cottonera Resource Centre were not being updated on the U3E website so they were not aware what courses were going to be offered at the Centre. Others complained that two of the lecturers (Mr Terrible and Mr Sare) covered similar content so the courses tended to be repetitive. Another issue was that the students who felt that they could go to other U3E centres opted for courses which were then provided later on during the academic year.

Lecturer	Average number of attendants
Rev. Dr. Rene Camilleri	28
Mr Tony Terribile	27
Mr John Sare	11
Mr Joe Camilleri	6

In August 2014 a questionnaire was sent to all those who had attended the U3E courses. The following interests were mentioned:

- Environmental issues
- Languages
- History (Medieval History – History of Art)
- Arts
- Continuation of Rev Dr Rene Camilleri's course
- Family & Adolescents
- Theology
- Culture
- Archeology
- Sewing
- Spanish for beginners
- Neo-Gothic Architecture

Mentoring

The Cottonera Resource Centre carried out a mentoring project conducted with a number of students from St. Margaret College who were academically promising and might be in need of support in order to continue with their studies. A group of University students, who acted as mentors, met their mentees once a week. This year the bulk of the mentors were Psychology students. During such encounters, the mentors provided help with the mentee's homework, explored different study methods and did some revision. Around 20 students started the process, but only seven continued to meet with their mentor on a weekly basis. Some of the mentoring sessions continued even during the summer holidays.

Initially the mentors were recruited through a call for volunteers. Those who were interested attended a short course given by Ms Dibben. The psychology mentors met Dr Cutajar who informed them what was expected of them. Dr Cutajar also met the parents of the students who were going to participate in the mentoring project to tell them what mentoring was about and to find out what they in turn expected from the mentors. These meetings were ongoing as some mentees dropped out of the project during the academic year and had to be replaced by others.

Some of the mentors formed a solid and crucial bond with their mentees. In fact some of the mentors who had participated in the 2012-2013 academic year continued meeting the mentee they were working with. Two of the mentees who were benefitting from the mentoring project in the previous year continued with new mentors.

Discover University

As part of the events of Discover University, the Cottonera Resource Centre participated in a 'Family Day' held at the main campus on the 10th of November 2013. This event included various activities. The Cottonera Resource Centre participated in this event in collaboration with Domus Pius IX, the St. Margaret College Design and Technology group and Zghazagh tal-Kottonera youth group (ZTK). ZTK youth performed a flash mob on campus, while artefacts by members of the other organisations mentioned above were exhibited to the general public.



Global Entrepreneurship Week



The University of Malta Cottonera Resource Centre in collaboration with the Edward de Bono Institute for the Design and Development of Thinking organized a crafts market on campus in which several artisans had the opportunity to exhibit and sell their products on campus. The Cottonera Resource Centre was in charge of the logistics, while the Centre for Creativity was in charge of the promotion of this event.

http://www.um.edu.mt/create/conferenceseminars/GEW/gew_2013/crafts_fair_on_campus

Event Title: Crafts Fair on Campus

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Date: Tuesday 19th November

Date: Tuesday 19th November

Time: 10.00 - 14.00

Time: 10.00 - 14.00

Venue: University of Malta Quadrangle (or KSU Common Room in case of bad weather)

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Event Details: During this crafts fair, the following artisan entrepreneurs displayed and sold their unique hand-made crafts, all of which would make excellent gifts for Christmas and other occasions:

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Suzanne Bencini - Semi-precious handmade jewellery

[Suzanne Bencini](#) - Semi-precious handmade jewellery

Valerie Cauchi Inglott - Woven beaded jewellery

Valerie Cauchi Inglott - Woven beaded jewellery

Brandy Chircop - Portraits, Modern Art and Abstract Art, prepared using different media

[Brandy Chircop](#) - Portraits, Modern Art and Abstract Art, prepared using different media including Pencil, Ink, Aquarelle and many more

Marlene Fenech Polidano - Handmade cards, Altered canvas and bottles, and handmade

[Marlene Fenech Polidano](#) - Handmade cards, Altered canvas and bottles, and handmade Christmas items

Lesley Harker - Dresses for children 0 to 3 years old

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Penny Pearson - Handmade felt creations

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Sandra Relton: Aless Accessories - Jewellery made from semi-precious stones and pearls (some of which is imported)

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[Joanne Zammit: Gr8 Jewellery](#) - Original hand-made jewellery and accessories

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Italian Film Festival



Cinema Nuovo Italiano di Ragusa launched the 2013 Italian Film Festival at the Cottonera Resource Centre. The docufilm ‘Terramatta’ was projected and afterwards those present had the opportunity to discuss issues related to the film in question with the organizer, Dott Minghardi. Typical Italian refreshments were served during this social gathering.

16/12/2013 - 08:26

Nell'ultima puntata Salvo la storia di un ragazzo killer

GRANDE SUCCESSO DI ITALIA FILM FESTIVAL A MALTA



Nella giornata di sabato 14 dicembre 2013 si è conclusa la decima edizione dell' " Italia Film Festival" a Malta, nello splendido Auditorium Valletta Campus della Old University. Quest' anno Cinema Nuovo Italiano ha inaugurato il festival presso il Cottonera Resource Centre dell' Università diretto dalla dott.ssa JosAnn Cutajar, che si è offerta di ospitare le massime autorità quali il Prof. Juanito Camilleri, Rector; il Prof. Dominic Fenech e il Prof. Mark Antony Falzon. Il Festival essendo stato distribuito sul tutto il territorio maltese attraverso una programmazione in cinque posti diversi, ha portato lo stesso ad aver avuto un clamoroso successo. Questo successo deriva e sta a dimostrazione di quanto in questi anni il Festival si sia radicato tra la popolazione e su tutto il territorio.

dall'inviata Veronica Falcone

WAMA Reloads – When Art Meets Acting

Description

The Cottonera Resource Centre in collaboration with St. Margaret College organized WAMA Reloads. This was an artistic project which brought together young people from the south of Malta who worked with four Maltese local established artists. A set of workshops were held in which the young people had the opportunity to focus on drama, art and salt painting. The drama group used the concept of devise theatre which strengthened the participants' self-esteem, character and creativity. The art group focused on 3D installations through recycled material while the salt painting group created various artistic views with salt. An exhibition open to the general public was then organized in order to showcase the outcomes of such project. This project was financed by '*Il-Premju tal-President għall-Kreattività*'.

As pointed out above, this project was organized by the Cottonera Resource Centre in collaboration with St. Margaret College. The Cottonera Resource Centre helped in the recruitment of tutors, encouraged the involvement of young people who benefitted from the Centre's services and promoted this project with local non-governmental organizations and social group. Moreover, CRC was also responsible for the planning and the implementation of the salt painting sessions and group facilitation. St. Margaret College was responsible for the planning and implementation of the drama and art sessions.

Objectives

- To encourage teamwork through active involvement in a structured activity
- To help young people to enhance their personality and creativity
- To enhance cultural awareness and interest in local traditions
- To promote the concept of recycling

No. of tutors

The total number of tutors who participated in this project amounted to 5 (2 for drama, 1 for art workshop and 2 other tutors assisted the salt painting workshops).

Applicants & Attendance

80 students applied for this project and attendance was regular. There were few drop outs after the first part of the project and these were replaced by other students who were interested in joining.



Counselling

The Cottonera Resource Centre in collaboration with the Department of Counselling will be offering residents from the Cottonera and surrounding area the possibility of receiving free counselling. For this purpose a room in the Centre has been transformed into a counselling room. While this has been going on, the CRC has started marketing this service with the entities in the area.

Objective: To offer counselling services free of charge to individuals from the Cottonera and surrounding area who are experiencing emotional and/or psychosocial difficulties, or those seeking personal growth and understanding.

Entities involved: CRC, Department of Counselling, Parish priests, NGOs.

Role of CRC: Monitoring room alterations and setting up meetings with the Department of Counselling and stakeholders in the community to co-ordinate arrangements for the commencement of service.

Services will be delivered by: University of Malta students following a Masters course in Counselling Practice under the supervision of lecturers.

SOTO

Objective: To deliver training in Socialising Tourism.

Entities involved: Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture, CRC

Role of CRC: Promoting course with entities in the Cottonera area, provision of lecture rooms.

Subjects offered:

Theme1 – Entrepreneurial skills for social tourism (Leadership, team building and delegation for social tourism enterprises, tourism marketing, marketing the tourism social enterprise, E-marketing applications, skills for managing an enterprise catering for needs and expectations of the disadvantaged guest, understanding the legal and business environment of social entrepreneurship)

Theme 2 – Hospitality and tourism management skills for social tourism (communication and interpersonal skills, sensitization and cultural differentiation, motivation, business and finance, business planning for tourism social enterprise, finance for tourism social enterprise).



Kids on Campus

Objective: The University of Malta sponsors 12 placements on Kids on Campus which is a summer school for young children. The objective behind this is that children from the Cottonera and surrounding area attending St Margaret's College are given the opportunity to integrate with children from different areas in Malta and develop new friendships.

Entities involved: St Margaret College, Kids on Campus, CRC.

In total 13 students participated in this initiative. The schools that participated were; Kalkara (2), Xghajra (3), Senglea (2), Cospicua (3) and Vittoriosa (3).

Role of CRC: The role of the CRC was to liaise with St Margaret College primary schools. The head teachers nominated students who they felt would most benefit from the experience. The CRC sent the students nominated to Ms Jacqueline Sant the director of Kids on Campus. Eventually a meeting was organised with the parents of these students in June 2014. The students' parents were addressed by Ms Jacqueline Sant (Director of KOC), Dr JosAnn (Director of CRC) and Ms McNamara (Principal of St Margaret's College). CRC was also responsible for coordinating transport for the children to and from University. The CRC was kept informed when the students who attended Kids on Campus misbehaved or did not attend some of the sessions. The CRC also invited the President of Malta the Hon. Marie Louise Coleiro to go and visit the Cottonera students on campus, and this invitation was accepted. Ms Dibben attended the President's visit to Kids on Campus.

General feedback from parents:

Towards the end of the summer period, CRC contacted the student's parents for feedback. Two students had stopped attending the summer school due to medical reasons while two others stopped attending as parents reported that their children had lost interest in going. Six out of the 13 participants reported that they were grateful that their children were chosen for this experience, and they had experienced no difficulty throughout the duration of the project. Four of the parents mentioned that they would be interested in applying for Kids on Campus next year, although some added that they could not afford the expenses. Cooking seemed to be the activity enjoyed most by the students, followed by swimming and crafts.



STEM Summer School

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics summer school was the flagship project for this academic year for the Cottonera Resource Centre. This idea emerged from a number of meetings which took place in May 2014 between the CRC representatives and Profs Mary Durfee and Raber from Michigan Tech. They mentioned their interest in promoting STEM in Malta and informed us that if interested, they would send some students from Michigan Tech to help us out in this endeavor.

Objective: To teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics in innovative ways.

Entities involved: St Margaret's College secondary schools, CRC, Michigan Tech University, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of ICT, Faculty of Science, Dr Edward Duca.

Subject offered: Maltese, English, Italian, Mathematics A, Mathematics B, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Experiments. Two hours were devoted for each subject per week.

The number of applications processed for the STEM summer school was 89.

Subject	Registered students	Average attendance over 7 weeks	Hours of teaching delivered	Teaching staff (volunteers)
Physics	54	19	14	2
Maths A	27	11	14	2
Maths B	38	20	12	2
Italian	14	4	10	1
Malti	29	9	8	1
Biology	15	8	14	3
Chemistry	14	8	14	3
Experiments	54	8	14	15

Topics tackled during science lessons

Physics and Experiments	Chemistry	Biology
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Earth and Universe2. Waves3. Electricity4. Magnetism5. Motion6. Balancing Forces7. Staying Cool (Heat)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Elements & Compounds2. Moles in Solids and Moles in Gases and Moles in Equations3. Volumetric Analysis4. Moles in Solution and Moles in Gases5. Visit to Faculty of Sciences.6. Ionic Equations and Qualitative Analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Vital functions2. Fieldwork3. Diversity of life4. Plants5. Animal kingdom6. Transport system7. microscopy

The languages taught were Maltese, English and Italian. The main objective of these lessons were to teach the language through the exploration of culture within the Harbour area. The lessons were mostly structured around cultural visits after which the students had to report and reflect on the historical gems found in the area. The aim of these lessons was to strengthen the communicative aspect of the languages while appreciating the hidden beauties of the area. A number of cultural visits were organized. These consisted of visits to the Maritime Museum and the National Museum of Archaeology. Heritage walks in the Birgu area and a boat trip from Cospicua to Valletta were also undertaken. The students also had the opportunity of visiting the exhibition showcase of Maltese history in 100 objects.

Dr Joseph Axiaq dedicated two hours of his time so that he could explain to the students and their parents how to prepare for the Maltese SEC examination.

During Mathematics lessons, students had the opportunity of working on past papers. The concept of tangrams was also introduced to the students.

The STEM summer school also offered students the opportunity of learning through mentorship. Two students applied for mentoring, both of which needed revision in a science subject.

The Cottonera Resource Centre, took the opportunity of familiarizing the students who participated in the STEM summer school with the different faculties found within the University of Malta. Visits were organised to the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of ICT and Faculty of Science.

All lessons were prepared and delivered by volunteers, in total 27 individuals volunteered to make this project possible.

An exhibition of the student's work was organised to conclude the project. Parents, students, volunteers and members of the public were invited to the CRC premises where they could participate in the different workshops organized by the students and their teachers.



Darsu in the South

After some brain storming sessions which took place between Dr Paula Vassallo (Dental Public Health Consultant within the Dental Public Health within the Dental Public Health Unit) and the director of the Cottonera Resource Centre it was decided to carry out a dental hygiene exercise with children, youth and the elderly within the south of Malta. In the summer of 2014, students and academic staff from the Faculty of Dental Surgery have been carrying out educational workshops and free dental checkups within different entities. This project will continue throughout the 2014-2015 period. During summer, the CRC contacted various summer schools or Klabb 3-16 to see whether the heads of schools were interested in holding this type of exercise. In all during the summer, the following summer organisations showed an interest in this programme:

- a. Centru Tbexbix
- b. Mother Theresa's summer school
- c. Zurrieq Klabb 3-16
- d. Kalkara community centre
- e. Mtarfa summer school
- f. Zurrieq summer school + Klabb 3-16
- g. Zejtun summer school + Klabb 3-16
- h. Birzebbuga summer school + Klabb 3-16
- i. Agenzja Sapport residential and day care centres



Akustika Dance Anthems at the Cottonera Resource Centre

On the 7 August of 2014 the group Akustika Dance Athems played a number of nineties hits as part of Evenings on Campus. This was the second time that Akustika performed at the Cottonera Resource Centre.



Foreign Students on field visits

University of Birmingham, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Field trip leader: Dr Vlad Mykhnenko

A group of around thirty students and their lecturers came on a field visit to the Cottonera area. These were shown around Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea so called poverty hot spots. The objective of this visit was to find out which structural and individual factors lead to poverty, which poverty hot spots emerge, their consequences on the community in question, and how successive governments deal with this prevalent problem.

University of Kingston, London, Department of Geography and Urban planning

Field trip leader: Prof. Annie Hughes

20 May 2014

Around thirty three students and three lecturers from this institution came to the Cottonera Resource Centre where Dr Cutajar gave them a short lecture on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Bormla. The objective of this trip was to give the group a short history of the area. The students were also informed of the main objectives of the CRC. Mr John Vella spoke about the role of museums in promoting socially deprived areas. This was followed by a Q and A session. The students were taken for a short visit to the open market. This was followed by a visit to Bir Mula Heritage museum and Verdala Housing Estate.



Kingston University London

Promotion of Cottonera Resource Centre

The projects and research on the Cottonera area enacted at the Cottonera Resource Centre or by personnel related to this Centre, were promoted in various venues. These included:

Date	Station	Topic discussed
12 December 2013	TVM	Book – Bormla, a struggling community
18 January 2014	Radju Kottoner	To discuss article written on Malta Today entitled “Bormla – anatomy of a crime hot spot”
28 March 2014	Radju Malta	Public talk Vers Aghtini
13 May 2014	One TV	Poverty and education
24 May 2014	One TV	SOTO project
2 July 2014	Radju Malta	New courses at the CRC offered by Lifelong Learning Programme and U3E



The director also took part in the Festival tal-Ktieb on campus which took place on 29 March 2014. She spoke about the main points which emerged from her research “Bormla: a struggling community. One of the students there Lara Ellul approached her because she was interested in conducting a creativity project in a school within the Cottonera area. Eventually she started a project with one of the primary schools.

Community Development

The Cottonera Resource Centre is represented by the director on four projects being enacted within the Cottonera area. The objective of these projects is to promote regeneration in the area. These include:

- a. Steering Committee - Forum tal-President fil-Kommunita' Bormliza: this is an off-shoot of the Anti-Poverty Forum organized by Dr Yana Mintoff Bland. The Cottonera Resource Centre and St. Margaret College were involved in this forum. They were asked to come up with proposals on potential actions which could be taken to break the cycle of poverty in the area. In December 2013 Mr Roger Mamo, EU Fund Officer, Programme Implementation – Social Affairs within the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity invited the Cottonera Resource Centre to help in the compilation of a proposal to apply for funds from the European Commission relating to Social Policy Experimentation supporting social investments VP/2013/012. Unfortunately the necessary documents did not arrive on time and the University of Malta could not sign the proposal in question. In the meantime the Anti-Poverty Forum became the Forum tal-Kommunita' Bormliza on 7 March 2014. The forum meets every month.
- b. Cottonera Kalkara Network: This meeting was called by Mr Paul Pace and Ms Remenda Grech, both involved with the Cottonera Access Services. This meeting consisted of service providers and community leaders who met once on June 18 2014. Those present explained what role they played in the community. The meeting then went on to discuss how we could liaise with each other.
- c. Implementation of tourism planning at local level: Mr Julian Zarb a visiting lecturer at the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture at the University of Malta involved the Cottonera Resource Centre in his compilation of data for his Ph.D. thesis. The objective of his thesis is to help the Bormla community come up with a tourist plan for the area. The Cottonera Resource Centre helped Mr Zarb compile a list of NGOs and organisations available in Bormla. The first two focus groups enacted with these organisations were held at the Cottonera Resource Centre. He invited a representative of the Cottonera Resource Centre to subsequent focus groups and seminars he enacted in other parts of the island.
- d. Safeguarding & Sharing Our Open Spaces in the Grand Harbour: This forum was organized by IRMCO. The discussion ensued following the results that came out of an EU sponsored Mare Nostrum project. The seminars were aimed at providing a platform for friendly communication between the localities involved in order to find a common way forward. The objective of the meetings and consultations was to come up with a charter to help protect the Grand Harbour, an area continuously under pressure from competing outside private entities and interests, many times ignoring the intrinsic heritage value of the area,

and the social & cultural needs of the local communities. This project involved local communities and decision-makers to address these issues and work towards safeguarding and reclaiming the remaining Open Spaces around the Grand Harbour, for the enjoyment of both the local community and tourists alike.

Liaison with Organisations within the Community

The Cottonera Resource Centre team is constantly liaising with the different NGOs and organisations within the community. These meetings help the team plan for future projects conducted in collaboration with the entities concerned. In certain circumstances the Cottonera Resource Centre helps in the capacity building of the human resources working within the entity in question.

This year for example the Cottonera Resource Centre had a number of meetings with Ms Catherine Azzopardi who runs Centru Tbeix. This organization works with children and women. Ms Azzopardi was searching for ideas of helping the women who attended her organization become financially independent. For these purposes we organized a number of meetings with Celine Warnier de Wally who runs a micro financing enterprise who explained how this enterprise works. Ms Marie Avellino and Ms Fenech from the organization of women entrepreneurs who gave Ms. Azzopardi some ideas of feasible projects she can run with this group of women.

The Cottonera Resource Centre also helped Centru Tbeix to successfully introduce STEM lessons thanks to the help of the three Michigan Tech students who visited Malta during the summer, namely Myder Vang, Andrew Connolly and Angelena Crispo. Members of the team Darsu in the South also visited Centru Tbeix to help promote dental hygiene thanks to the intervention of Cottonera Resource Centre.

The Cottonera Resource Centre promotes different university entities with the people who run the different organisations within the Cottonera and surrounding area. Placements for drama students attending Theatre Studies Department (coordinated by Ms Louise Ghirlando) were arranged after consultation with Mr Simon Schembri who runs a youth Centre in the area. At the moment we are working on a series of courses which will be given by graduate students from the Faculty of Theology after Ms Pamela Vella Scicluna was identified of this need by one of the archpriests working in the community.

The Cottonera Resource Centre is constantly trying to draw a link between the community and the University of Malta. Adults and young people in the area are more likely to consider MCAST as a potential venue where they can further their education. This was in fact an issue of concern which we raised with the principal of the college Ms Maria McNamara in one of the constant meetings we hold. This issue emerged through the constant feedback we have from the students who come to the Cottonera Resource Centre for courses and from the parents of the younger students. When we meet with the parents of these students the team at the Cottonera Resource Centre underlines what degrees are available at the University of Malta for their children as well as for them. A good number of the parents and the older students were not aware that they could still go to university even if they do not have the necessary qualifications. In fact a number of the

mature students and the parents of the younger students approached one of the team to get information on the courses available at university level.

The team of the Cottonera Resource Centre also had a number of people who dropped in to ask for basic courses in English, Mathematics and Maltese. When some of the courses they asked about were not available at the Cottonera Resource Centre, they were provided with contact numbers of the respective institution.

Consultations were also conducted with Malta Enterprise which at one point was interested in running some projects in collaboration with the Cottonera Resource Centre, as well as the director of the Lifelong Learning Programme. The meetings with Mr Clayton Cutajar took place so that together we could try to find courses which might interest less academic members of the community and use this as a stop gap measure to introduce them to the other more academic courses we hold at the Cottonera Resource Centre.

Use of Cottonera Resource Centre by other entities

A number of entities within the Cottonera area held meetings at the Cottonera Resource Centre or used some of the rooms to hold an Easter camp. A case in point was ZTK which held an Easter camp between 17 to 20th March 2014

The Great Outdoors 2014

‘The Great Outdoors’ was held in Birgu and Ghajn Tuffieha, Malta. The exchange was divided into two part. The first part we stayed at a youth hostel in Birgu. During this time the participants prepared and gained skills for the second part of the exchange. The second part of the exchange was hosted at the Malta Scouts Association campsite in Ghajn Tuffieha. During this time the participant applied the skills gained during the first part of the exchange and they also participated in outdoor activities. This was a multilateral exchange held over a period of 6 days, involving 4 countries. The participating countries were from Finland, Italy, Ireland and Malta, as the hosting country. 7 youth between the ages of 13 to 18 years participated from each country.

<http://ztkyouthclub.wordpress.com/youth-exchanges/the-great-outdoors-2014/>

On May 21 2014 a number of Health and Safety courses were conducted by Xghajra Primary school in three of the rooms at the CRC. On May 30 2014, 4 classes were used by a School Development Programme run by St. Margaret College. The Malta PSD Association held a number of workshops on the 31st of May 2014.

Reports

Every three months the Project Implementation Unit within the Ministry of Education and Employment asks the Cottonera Resource Centre for a lengthy report about the projects being implemented. The write ups are then forwarded to the NRP Team for Policy and Programme Implementation Directorate within the Ministry for Finance where they are then compiled into the Country Specific Report forming part of the National Reform Programme under the Europe 2020 strategy.

