

CHAPTER NINE

INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION



EDUCATION

Introduction **9.1** Education has been identified as one of the three pillars for Malta's future and therefore this sector is undoubtedly a key priority for this Government. It is Government's target to establish our country as a centre of excellence in education by 2015. This is vital to our country's social and economic progress and also to the individual fulfilment of our people and the strengthening of our nation as a whole.

9.2 In the last years, Government set out to change the education framework of our country through a range of reforms at the various levels of education. These actions were aimed at providing more opportunities for all our children to succeed.

Early childhood education and care **9.3** Early Childhood Education and Care is recognised as one of the most crucial phases in our education system. Government has invested in this sector and various childcare centres in and out of schools have been opened. Government is committed to continue this investment and is giving children the opportunity to develop the necessary basic skills through quality educare programmes which will also ensure the smooth transition from this phase to the compulsory education phase.

Educational Infrastructure **9.4** Over recent years Government has invested heavily in the obligatory educational sector with the aim of giving a better educative and successful experience to all our children so that they can develop further in creativity skills and innovation. Recognised landmarks of this investment were the building of new schools, the extensive maintenance of existing ones and the establishment of the colleges system. The Colleges and other ancillary education structures now need to be strengthened and more programmes and services need to be developed if we are to ensure that quality education is provided so that all our children can succeed.

Informal learning **9.5** Government aims to continue developing informal learning for our children and offering assistance to working parents. We want to enable children to benefit from a broad range of positive activities and ensure that schools and other facilities are being better utilised. Children should have better access to a range of after school activities, with a major focus on sports, local heritage, culture and the performing arts.

9.6 Public expenditure on the provision of further and higher education has increased from €54,413,566 in 2002 to €66,111,048 in 2006. Undoubtedly this investment is a benefit to children, the sector and society in general.

Further and higher education **9.7** In 2007, the participation rate of students in further and higher education continued to increase with Government setting the ambitious target of 85 per cent of students aged 16-18 to be attending programmes leading to a post-secondary qualification by 2010.

9.8 Initiatives in place to increase participation beyond the compulsory age include free provision of full-time post secondary and tertiary education, generous Student Maintenance Grants awarded to over 15,834 students and the Malta Government Scholarship Schemes for Undergraduate and Postgraduate studies.

9.9 The participation rate of 17 year old students in further education increased from 37 per cent in 2000 to 65 per cent in 2007. Reaching higher participation rates at this level requires that more students leaving the compulsory school system successfully obtain the SEC and Matriculation Certificates, and that all further and higher education institutions are prepared for larger numbers in the short term.

9.10 Further education includes all formal education of persons above the compulsory school age, leading to qualifications classified at NQF Levels 1 to 5. Two higher secondary schools, the Junior College, two church and two independent private Sixth Forms together provide for general education at this level. Student population at the general post-secondary level increased from 5,191 in 2000 to 6,119 in 2007.

9.11 Higher education includes all formal education, training and research for persons above compulsory school age, leading to qualifications classified at NQF Levels 6-8. Students at the University of Malta increased from 6,362 in 2000 to 9,500 in 2007 with 2,695 students graduating in 2007.

MCAST and ITS

9.12 The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) and the Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS) are two public colleges providing post-secondary vocational education. Student population for vocational education increased from 2,729 in 2000 to 6,238 in 2007. There were a total number of 703 graduates from MCAST in 2007.

9.13 MCAST will continue to offer quality full-time and part-time professional and vocational education and training programmes that respond to the current as well as the growing and changing demands of industry, commerce and the services while providing young people and adults with the knowledge, skills and competences as a solid basis for a career and lifelong learning in support of Government's ongoing investment in more better jobs and in ensuring social inclusion. MCAST will continue to work with the major stakeholders, social partners and professional bodies in order to satisfy the demands for a skilled labour force and to ensure the acquisition of universally recognised qualifications.

9.14 ITS is another important specialised niche in our education and tourism sectors which has blossomed over the years. A total of 212 students graduated from the ITS in 2007. Every year a constant increase in the number of applicants joining full-time courses, especially foreign students, is evidenced. Moreover part-time courses are continuously organised to cater for people already working in the industry and who wish to improve their skills and competences.

Educational centre of excellence

9.15 Government's commitment to develop Malta as a centre of excellence in education by 2015 is clear. In this regard, the goal of developing the capacity in partnership with a growing private sector, to attract 5,000 overseas students to Malta for further or higher education studies, has several reform implications which include a new regulatory framework for quality assurance and accreditation, portability of student support to widen access and student choices, and a set of incentives and reforms to ensure that education providers can participate actively in developing Malta as a reputable hub for learning and research.

9.16 The private sector has been emerging over the past years, mainly in new areas where demand has been greater than the capacity of public institutions, or in particular niches where no provision was available.

9.17 Malta has also increased its efforts in the field of research and innovation. The outstanding performance of the University of Malta in the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP6) is indicative of the potential for growth in this area with 38 projects undertaken under this round of funding.

Malta Government Sponsorship Schemes

9.18 The Malta Government Scholarship Schemes sponsored 29 scholars to follow studies at a doctoral level and 55 at a Masters level in a wide range of areas of specialisation. The CERN agreement will also help engineers and scientists to undergo postgraduate studies in advanced technical research in the fields of engineering, information technology and physical sciences. In 2008 the Malta Government Scholarship Undergraduate Scheme, which was launched in 2007 to support Maltese students studying at a higher education level within the private sector, was extended in 2008 to include Maltese students studying abroad, entitling the top students to receive a grant to support them in their studies.

9.19 On an international level, all OECD countries have seen upward trends in the participation of 20 to 29 year olds in tertiary education currently at an average rate of 25 per cent of these age cohorts. This is comparable to the EU19 average rate. For the entire EU27, the participation rate of 18-39 year olds in tertiary education was 11.1 per cent whilst that for Malta was 6.4 per cent. In 2004, less than 3 per cent of students from the majority of European countries were studying abroad compared to Malta with 8.4 per cent of students in tertiary education studying in another EU member state.

Achievements in educations

9.20 Government has invested heavily to register progress and success in this sector. Among the achievements obtained, the following may be highlighted:

- the building of new schools and the extensive maintenance of existing ones through the Foundation of Tomorrow Schools;
- the reform to the education system, culminating in the new Education Act and the July 2007 agreement with the Malta Union of

Teachers;

- the setting up of new structures to respond to the needs of all our children including the setting up of the Directorate for Educational Services and the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education;
- the setting up of the ten colleges whereby primary and secondary state schools are networking together to maximise the use of resources so as to provide a better educational experience for our children;
- the implementation of a national e-Learning strategy including the provision of computers in all the primary and secondary schools and laptops for teachers;
- the opening of quality childcare centres in schools;
- the establishing of MCAST and then its recognition as the first Centre of Excellence in Europe by Edexcel, a principal qualifications institution;
- partnership projects with centres of private learning in IT offering certificates from diploma to a masters degree level from foreign universities;
- the setting up of the National Commission for Higher Education and the Malta Qualifications Council;
- the significant increase in the participation rate of students in the further and higher education sector;
- establishing the scholarship schemes to students reading for undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

The next steps in education

9.21 Education is central to achieving the aim of safeguarding and increasing our country's prosperity and ensuring greater social inclusion. Government is determined to take on a series of significant further steps forward with a view to continuing the implementing of the Education Reform.

Objectives

9.22 The overall objectives are:

- the implementation of significant further improvements in the human and financial resources available to our schools;
- ensuring that the quality of buildings and equipment of all education institutions meets tomorrow's needs;
- making every opportunity to education more inclusive and responsive to the needs of marginalised groups;
- developing Malta into a Centre of Excellence in further and higher education by 2015;
- raising educational attainment and reduce early school leavers;
- improving the quality and standards of further and higher education to international standards.

Proposals

9.23 In view of the above objectives, the following proposals are being made:

Strengthening the Early, Primary and Secondary Education Sector.

The Education reforms will continue through all levels. The steps to be taken include:

- the creating of a network of childcare centres across the Maltese islands and within the Colleges, in collaboration with private entities;
- the continued implementation and strengthening of the college system;
- putting in place systems that allow those with special needs to carry on training or studying after they have finished compulsory schooling;
- lending support to the parents of children with special needs who receive their education in private schools;
- strengthening of the early screening programme to identify the required support services which match the needs of our children;
- a review of the National Minimum Curriculum so as to ensure that all students receive an education that makes them competitive in the labour market, active citizens locally and globally and ones who appreciate their heritage and culture as well as their health and life;
- a review of the examination system at the end of the primary education, focusing on skills and attitudes;
- the provision of an 'after school' programme of sports, literacy, art, drama, dance and creativity for children in schools;
- the continued commitment to the refurbishment and building programme for state-run schools;
- an increased focus on the use of information technology in all areas of education;
- the launching of a scholarship scheme which will offer training opportunities to teachers and educators in an array of specialised areas, including early identification of individual educational needs;
- a review of the existing teacher appraisal and auditing processes in order to update the current systems of teacher evaluation which respects the context and addresses the challenges of quality assurance both at local and international levels.
- a greater commitment to sport in the education system.

9.24 The Ministry aims to conclude the building of the Verdala School, the Pembroke Primary School, the Gozo Secondary School, the Mosta (Zokkrija) Secondary School and the extension of the Mriehel Junior Lyceum.

9.25 In addition, the next phase of building of new schools and educational institutions needs to be finalised.

Education and training capacities

9.26 The steps to be taken include:

- capital investment in facilities and infrastructure in the University of Malta for the ICT Faculty and the Communications Centre;
- implementation of the Trust Fund for the University of Malta;

- implementation of the MCAST Master Plan and initiation of the expansion of the Junior College to offer more and better spaces, facilities, services and resources;
- strengthening of human resources at the University of Malta and MCAST;
- commencement of the upgrading process of ITS which needs to be undertaken so as to render this Institute more accessible and allow it to be able to meet the demands with regards to requests from students to join programmes of studies at the Institute;
- the development of adequate information and guidance services and facilities to inform students on prospective pathways, entry requirements, and other information necessary for students to plan their progression in advance;
- Incentives will be provided to promote Malta as an International Centre of Excellence in Learning. These include:
 - investment in joint initiatives of state institutions for increased revenue generation capability for the University of Malta, MCAST and ITS and the empowerment of these institutions to increase their revenue generating activities to sustain growth in cost of free educational service provision by the state;
 - reforms to ensure responsiveness of state institutions in a competitive international market, especially in the running of joint international programmes for fee paying students;
 - providing support and incentives for private investment in education services in Malta such as tax benefits on donations for research;
 - strengthening of institutions particularly in relation to resources including Information Technology, research and innovation, and sciences.

Quality standards in education

9.28 Improving the Quality and Standards of Further and Higher Education to International Standards through:

- the establishment of a licensing, quality assurance and accreditation agency for the verification of quality standards and for the recognition of local and foreign qualifications provided in Malta;
- funding of state institutions to develop internal quality assurance systems and undertake external quality audits, and support institutions in identified areas for quality improvement;
- supporting private institutions in developing good practice and adequate internal quality assurance systems, and in their capacity to meet the requirements of external quality assurance processes.

SPORT

Introduction **9.29** It is Government's conviction that promoting a higher participation in sports and physical activity would lead to more desirable lifestyles. Sport participation not only encourages a strive for excellence, but is also an efficient means to reach a state of mental and physical well being, allows for leisure time and enhances solidarity between individuals.

9.30 We believe that sport should be accessible to all, irrespective of age, sex, social status and physical abilities. This goal can only be reached if Government and all sport organisations work hand in hand.

9.31 Government also believes that it should assist elite athletes to maximise their potential and thus becoming more competitive.

9.32 Sport can also be a net contributor to our economy. Sport does not only generate employment but it is also a niche which attracts tourists. Government believes that a better approach towards sports tourism should play a key role in our vision.

Objectives **9.33** Government aims to achieve the following objectives in the sports sector:

Sports Culture We want to increase people's awareness about the benefits arising from sport activity. Our goal is to increase participation in sports by addressing those sectors which the latest data found lacking in participation.

Attracting the young to sport There is no better way to inspire a culture than through education in the early years. Our education system should be used to instil a passion for physical activity.

Increase female participation Female participation in 2005 stood low at 19 per cent of those who participated in sports. It is our objective to encourage further participation through existing programmes offered both by Government and by our national organisations.

Increase the participation of the elderly Those above the age of 60 comprised the smallest proportion of those who were physically active in 2005. The data published by NSO shows that only 3,730 out of a total of 102,887 (3.6 per cent) were members of our sport organisations. It is thus our goal to increase participation by targeting this age group through dedicated programmes.

Inclusiveness in sport Government is convinced that in partnership with related stakeholders sports should be used as one of the instruments to eradicate social exclusion.

Inclusiveness of Challenged persons It is our aim to support challenged persons to participate in sports and thus it is also our mission to not only support those who are already achieving results

but also inactive persons to participate in physical activity and traditional sport.

Government will also assist those sports organisations who make their facilities accessible to challenged persons or in purchasing appropriate equipment to be used by challenged persons participating in their discipline.

Encouraging better use of free time

Although participation in traditional sports disciplines is enhanced through scouting by clubs and associations, non-traditional sport and physical activity should also be offered to all those who want to practice them. It is thus our objective to increase the number of those who participate in these disciplines by making it easier for them to train and practice in these respective disciplines.

Sports Tourism

International sport events held locally are on the increase. A questionnaire held amongst National Federations shows that currently just above 28,000 bed nights are being used annually to accommodate athletes participating in competitions and training camps and also delegates for sport related conferences. Our aim is to encourage more national organisations to explore the possibility to invest in this sector whilst assisting them in doing so. An increase in sport tourism will contribute to the Maltese economy and will help local athletes to gain further sporting experience while generating funds for the local organisations.

Education

A sound sport community requires strong leadership and coaching skills. Government wants to promote and ensure the education and preparation of coaches, administrators and officials with the required vocational and professional competencies.

Assisting our athletes

It is also our goal to assist national organisations and athletes to participate in international competitions and to provide them with adequate time for training so as to improve their performance so as to achieve better results.

Proposals

9.34 In view of the above objectives, the following proposals are being made:

Sports Culture

Government will instigate a sports culture through various programmes addressing the specific target groups. This will be done by increasing the frequency of existing programmes and through the introduction of new programmes directed towards the specific social and demographic brackets. These programmes will be administered by the Malta Sports Council (Kunsill Malti għall-Isport - KMS) and where possible in cooperation with national organisations.

Government will continue to embark on infrastructural projects to increase the number of sport facilities on the island. Next year, the Cottonera Sports Complex will be complemented by outdoor facilities while the Kirkop Regional Sports Complex is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Plans are also underway to identify a site and start preliminary drafting of plans for another Sport Complex in the northern part of the island.

Government will also seek co-operation with the private sector so as to increase the sport facilities on the island.

Attracting young people to sport

Government intends to expand further participation of children, between the age of 4 and 10 years, in its Saturday programme, Skolasport. This increase will be possible once the Kirkop Regional Complex opens its doors and also with the use of school sports facilities, thus extending the capture area which at the moment is focused on the southern area of the island.

Government plans to offer the possibility for secondary school children to follow training programmes after school hours. Throughout 2009 such programmes are planned to be held in partnership with St. Margaret College, St. Claire College, St. Ignatius College along with St. Benedict College. Similarly, Government intends to promote after school sports activities for primary school children within the boundaries of their respective school.

Research shows a decrease in participation levels of young people during Summer. Such decrease could be the result of a lack of sporting activities being organised. Thus Government through KMS has developed a generic sports programme called 'Active Youngsters'. This programme will take place in sport facilities close to the most popular summer areas and will promote a variety of sports including water sports.

Government will promote sport during and after school hours through the collaboration and assistance towards co-ordinators and P.E. teachers within Schools. In this regard KMS will be asked to create a communication network between the National Sport Organisations and the Education Department to re-introduce organised school sports competitions and festivals throughout the scholastic year.

Increase female participation

The 'Girls on the Move' programme has so far proved to be a success. Though satisfied with the results achieved so far, we still believe that there is the possibility to further increase participation. Thus Government intends to expand the programme. During 2009, the programme will be launched throughout the scholastic year within the Cottonera Sports Complex. Pilot projects will be carried out at the Kirkop Regional Sports Complex and the University Sports Complex.

In this regard attention is also being focused on Gozo where Government, through the KMS, intends to partner up with an existing NGO to increase female participation in sport.

Increase the participation of the elderly

Next year will also see the launch of a sport programme which will target the elderly and encourages them to be more physically active. Thus Government through KMS in partnership with other organisations will be offering Pilate courses.

Social Inclusion Government is proposing to initiate a sports programme within the Cottonera Sports Complex specifically for children hailing from the Three Cities. Such a programme should help to use sport as a vehicle towards social inclusion. The programme will include friendly encounters with other peers practicing similar sports within organised entities as well as the possibility of experiencing sailing, canoeing and adventure. The aim of such programmes will be to allow participants to express themselves freely with the main focus being the ability to socialise, self-esteem building and character development.

Inclusiveness of Challenged persons Government is adamant to prevent disabled persons becoming the focus of active direct prejudice by limiting their possibilities of participation in sport, whether as elite athletes or just for the sake of participating. It is Government's intention to offer challenged persons the possibility of practicing a sport within an organisation that caters for such disabilities. Throughout the coming year, a number of sports activities will be planned with the different organisations catering for sports for challenged people. This includes wheelchair dancing, swimming, football and athletics.

Encouraging a better use of free time Young adults that cannot identify themselves with a specific sport programme unless forming part of a National Sport Organisation will be given the opportunity to participate in the yet to be launched Adventure Sports Programme. This programme will also be targeting young adults following alcohol and drug rehabilitation programmes.

'Sports for All' is targeted for participants of all ages making use of their free time. It is considered to be a more family oriented activity. In fact, it is Government's intention to intensify its 'Sport for All' campaign with its principle objective being family participation. 2009 will be seeing KMS working in partnership with other agencies in providing physical activities accessible to the community in their respective locality.

Government is committed in making the best possible use of open spaces for physical activity for all strata of the Maltese population. Thus next year will also see the launch of new facilities which encourage people to be more active whilst being in public gardens, playing fields and parks.

Sports Tourism Government plans to continue assisting those local organisations which attract sports related bed nights. It will also seek further co-operation amongst all stakeholders through the organisation of a national conference that would address the subject.

Education Government is working to strengthen the relationship between the KMS and the Institute for Physical Education and Sport at the University of Malta. Courses will be offered at various levels for persons working in local Sports.

The year 2009 will see the commencement of short courses as initial training as well as continuous professional development tailor made to suit the needs of different sports organisations.

In co-operation with the University of Malta, Government intends to offer a Masters Degree course in Sports Administration and Sports Development. Such courses would ensure that sports will be further enhanced from a managerial aspect in line with other European countries without imposing on entities additional financial burdens.

Assisting our athletes

Government intends to amend procedures for special sport leave for its employees participating in international activities held in Malta. This can be considered as an indirect financial contribution to national sports organisations.

Government employees called for National Team training would be released from work for a definite period of time prior to an International Commitment. Such release from work should not exceed twenty hours per week, which amount and/or release depends on the exigencies of the department where he/she is employed.

In the coming months sports organisations and their affiliated members will be asked to register themselves with the KMS. Only registered organisations and athletes will benefit from schemes being offered by Government and through KMS.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS: A SUSTAINABLE CREATIVE ECONOMY

Introduction

9.35 Culture and the Arts are important in the development of each and every individual. They also signify a community's entire way of life. Culture is a social expression and Government therefore remains committed to a continual investment in this sector. We need to appreciate and treasure our historical and cultural heritage whilst giving the necessary space to our artists and our contemporary culture. Culture also plays a major role in the development of every city. It is an important element contributing to the quality of urban life and a basic citizenship right. The investment made today will be reaped by both present and future generations.

9.36 Research indicates that creative industries are crucial to today's economy. Creativity and innovation produce competitiveness and an added value to economies around the world. Data indicates that 'the growth of the cultural and creative sector in Europe from 1999 to 2003 was 12.3 per cent higher than the growth of the general economy'. When compared to other spheres of the economy, culture has an added dimension because it not only creates wealth, but is the source which creates also well being, inclusion, better

education, creativity, assertiveness, and a pride of belonging to a community which is endowed with a history and which forms the nation. The economic relationship between culture and the creative industries includes the direct transfers of product, skills and ideas; the creation of cultural ecologies in which creative industries thrive; and the networks and resources that underpin the creative economy.

9.37 Government's goal is to promote creativity and innovation in the culture and the arts. Culture needs to experience a shift which will sustain its development and encompasses its growth. This may be achieved by investing in creative industries which comprise advertising, architecture, audio-visual and audio media, cultural heritage, design, music, the performing arts, printed matter, literature and visual arts.

World's creative hub **9.38** Our cultural dimension can be widened whereby access to and the understanding of our rich tradition, adorned by our language is placed on international level. We need to become the world's creative hub. Culture should not be seen as a banner but should be a living ambassador which grows and evolves.

Culture diplomacy **9.39** The ability to mobilise cultural diplomacy is a precious resource in international relations, and not one that rests only in the hands of diplomats. We all need and are obliged to realise this potential. Cultural exchange gives us the chance to appreciate points of commonality and, where there are differences, to understand the motivations and humanity that underlie them.

9.40 The right to culture has a wide-ranging nature. However, it needs more widespread acknowledgment, the enrichment of new aims and become the expression of more people. This can only be achieved through cultural policies, that need to be strengthened. People need to be drawn into the realm of cultural experiences in new ways and new places.

National Culture Policy **9.41** An important milestone for this Government is the drafting of a National Cultural Policy and updating the national strategy. One of the main objectives of the cultural policy is to ensure the inclusivity of all the people and pilot the creative activity of the people as essential for the sustainable development of the nation.

9.42 Government has committed itself to establish cultural institutes and centres abroad to promote their artistic creation and cultural heritage, addressing foreign and national audiences directly. Investing in our culture would create an instrument used by the Maltese to project an image that contributes to their identities.

Cultural mobility and diplomacy **9.43** Malta's accession into the European Union has increased mobility opportunities: as a result, culture is changing. Government needs to invest further in the maintenance of Malta's global cultural standing and needs

to capitalise on the expertise of cultural professionals. New technological challenges may be explored as an innovative way to strengthen contributions to cultural diplomacy.

Culture and education

9.44 Education must prepare young people to understand their cultural identity and to engage in its diversity. Creating a network between schools, museums, libraries and artists can enrich young people's experience of culture.

Culture, innovation and entrepreneurship

9.45 Dedicated human resources for cultural and creative industries and for cultural heritage would enable government to maximise the development of entrepreneurship in these fields. This can be achieved through the maximisation of benefits by cultural operators from horizontal initiatives for SMEs promoted by Government (fiscal incentives, business centre and incubation centre development, take-up of EU funds for SMEs). Support for government's action programme (ICT innovation in online cultural content, support to Gozo-based cultural and cultural heritage enterprise, innovative craft development in reconstructed crafts village) is also necessary. Government is committed to ensure a fair distribution of economic benefits accruing from activities such as cultural tourism by providing assistance to cultural voluntary organisations, local councils and other de-centralised actors who wish to develop their own initiatives in the arts and cultural heritage, both within urban and rural contexts.

9.46 Projects which are co-financed by the European Union are an important tool towards for the development of culture and creativity. Networking with other countries also enables Maltese society to learn from best practices experienced elsewhere. Co-operation between countries is further strengthened through sharing of knowledge and experiences.

Cultural events

9.47 Following the success and the active participation of the Maltese and tourists to the events organised in the cultural sector, Government is determined to renew these yearly events. This is being proposed so that more cultural events that enrich local fabric, that ensure a dynamic society, and the issue of public-private partnerships are all introduced in the cultural sector. Government will also seek to attract more companies and international events to Maltese shores so that culture is brought closer to the public.

Malta, Capital of Culture 2008

9.48 Malta will be hosting the European Capital of Culture event in 2018. This is a prestigious platform for local society and requires careful planning and preparation. This event entails that great attention is given to the required preparations which will be a pathway for the actual year and a source for major investment with long term results. Given that the submission of applications needs to be published six years before the event in question, Malta's proposal must be submitted by not later than 2012. For this purpose, a unit needs to be created which will be responsible for the preparatory phase and definition of this event.

- Voluntary Organisations for further collaboration** **9.49** A number of voluntary organisations are dedicated towards the development of culture and the arts. This commitment triggers Maltese society to liaise more with voluntary organisations so that expertise and ideas are shared and better results are achieved through a common good.
- Superintendence of Cultural Heritage** **9.50** The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage has the central national mandate to exercise surveillance over the care, conservation, protection and use of cultural heritage assets. An inventory of archaeological sites must be created so that authorities such as MEPA are equipped with a list which identifies the places which are of archaeological significance. This will facilitate the works and enhance collaboration between different entities whilst creating awareness of the archaeological sites which exist in Malta. Further capacity building, a suitable premises and necessary logistics are required to continue to improve the agency's remit to a level which will make it a viable instrument of public policy capable of delivering a broad range of services to the communities of the Maltese islands.
- Arts Development Fund** **9.51** The Arts Development Fund contributes significantly to the promotion of Malta's cultural and artistic value as a cultural tourism destination. It enhances the quality of art in Malta and the professional status of artists. Within the framework of the sustainable localities priority for Malta, such a new initiative increases the attractiveness of Maltese islands as well as of the various localities where cultural and artistic activity can be further promoted.
- The Film Fund** **9.52** The Film Fund was created to initiate a strategic investment by audio-visual companies as well as to provide for a stable and secure environment for the indigenous film industry. The Fund should encourage:
- co-production relationships and networks;
 - the emergence of domestic film – including animation and interactive media;
 - the synergy with Smart City development and creative industries;
 - more possibilities to access MEDIA funding and wider networks of international co-production support.
- National Statistics on Culture** **9.53** It is recommended that a regular statistics gathering programme for culture and audio-visuals be set up. This will procure comparable indicators between countries.
- 9.54** All humans possess creativity, but if this is neglected, this creativity becomes inhibited. By assisting and encouraging a child's creativity, the stage is set for endless opportunities for the child's imagination. A healthy imagination not only creates a resourceful and productive individuality, but it also builds self-esteem.
- Kre-attiv** **9.55** To further provide high quality arts outreach programme for children under the umbrella name of 'Kre-attiv'. This will enable the provision of free services to marginalised children, schools in economically deprived areas and disadvantaged students.

St. James Cavalier 9.56 A number of other proposed initiatives include:

- **St. James Diversity Fest** – The development of a festive day in 2009 celebrating cultural diversity in Malta following the successful launch of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in February 2008. The festival will be created in partnership with embassies, voluntary organisations and international communities residing in Malta. As part of St. James' remit to help young Maltese artists and to professionalise the arts in Malta, a project entitled New Territories is being proposed and it is aimed at creative innovation.
- **St. James Nightshift** will be aimed at encouraging the creative underground and fringe art in Malta. The project will consist of late night performances ranging from contemporary music to stand-up comedy shows amongst others. The purpose of this project is to be a platform for the alternative night scene through performance-centered happenings with the inclusion of alternative groups who are rarely given a spot in the commercial environment and who do not have the financial capacity to organise their own activities.
- **St. James 60+** - A series of programmes for people who still have a role to act in life. The concept will be based on the notion that senior citizens have the right to engage in the creative process. The project will present professional creative training and presentations such as exhibitions, theatrical and musical performances and literature. The programme could also pilot future collaborative actions for EU projects.
- **St. James Creative Energy Lab** - A think-tank where science meets the Arts. New ways to make St. James Carbon neutral. An artistic experiment with huge environmental implications. The seed funding is being requested to conduct a study into the feasibility of the Arts centre eliminating its net emissions of carbon dioxide. The following phases will be based on the recommendations set in the study.
- **St. James Creative Localities** - Research into venues and possibilities of theatres, exhibition halls or other spaces which have been abandoned or misused. The Authorities are bound to source and support sustainable measures that foster creativity within our local communities and maximise their potential. Within this framework, St. James Cavalier is proposing to embark on a capacity building exercise to assist Local Councils in this initiative.
- **St. James Heritage** - Where Heritage meets the Contemporary. Creative research into and with the local community to validate its cultural heritage to eventually culminate into a project. This will gather stories from members of the local communities relating to the development of cultural heritage in small villages.

National Archives of Malta

9.57 The National Archives has the responsibility to safeguard the collective memory of the nation and protect the rights of citizens through the preservation of national public records and to provide access to the archives. Following the introduction of new legislation, the National Archives requires modernisation and more capital investment is required for structural and infrastructural needs. To continue to ensure a better quality service, the National Archives also require better IT management through investing in software package for the cataloguing of the collections, data storage and an on-site data repository system. For the first time, the National Archives attracted a high level conference to Malta for 2009 which will attract experts from all over Europe.

Malta Philharmonic Orchestra

9.58 'The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra is instrumental in establishing Malta on the map of international cultural events.' Since last year, national orchestra has developed into a fully fledged philharmonic orchestra. Now, its aim is to promote and conduct quality musical performances on a professional national level with a view of affirming Malta's cultural image internationally. This would entail:

- supporting the music and the wealthy artistic culture of Malta;
- enhancing its prestigious national and international image;
- guaranteeing the public music of the highest artistic levels throughout its seasons' calendars;
- striving to build a society with a cultural soul;
- promoting Maltese Composers on a national and international level;
- presenting original cultural and educational programmes;
- enhancing the personal development of the musicians within its fold, broaden their perspectives, encourage their artistic growth, personal fulfilment, and job satisfaction;
- collaborating with local and foreign entrepreneurs seeking to enrich their high profile by availing themselves of the services of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra;
- providing various patterns of collaboration and partnership with local entities which include the Arts Council, the Manoel Theatre, the Mediterranean Conference Centre, St. James Cavalier and the University of Malta.

9.59 The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra is also trying to attract business from other sources such as the Film Industry; a revamped Youth Orchestra; by offering services to the tourist industry and seeking other corporate sponsors. Furthermore, the Orchestra is reviewing its collaboration with schools so as to offer a better structured education programme.

Heritage Malta

9.60 Heritage Malta is responsible for immobile heritage, to develop measures to ensure educational promotion, accessibility, conservation and the proper operation and marketability of Malta's prestigious patrimony in heritage sites, buildings, collections and museums, both on a national and international field. To continue sustaining such responsibilities, Heritage Malta is investing

in the upgrading of the heritage sites and museums to offer a better quality experience for all visitors. The agency is actively looking at ways of seeking EU funding for this capital investment as well as improving the human resources capacity of its staff.

**Malta Council for
Culture and the Arts**

9.61 The Malta Council for Culture and the Arts has the responsibility to create Malta's culture through all forms of creative expression and to increase the accessibility of the public to the arts and enhance Malta's cultural locally and internationally. It is Government's intention to evaluate the role of the Council in order to continue to strengthen its roles and duties. The Malta Council for Culture and the Arts is recommending the drafting of an incentive scheme on favouring people and institutions that contribute to the arts. This initiative is to be taken by the Council as an investment in the future of the arts and culture. It also being proposed that a fund is created to promote organisations in the artistic fields such as language (literature and poetry), performing arts (theatre, music, dance), visual arts (fine arts, collections, conceptual visual arts, film, architecture), ethnography and folklore (Maltese customs, traditions).

The Economy of Culture in Europe: Study prepared by the European Commission, 2006