



ASSOĊJAZZJONI KUNSILLI LOKALI  
MALTA

# Local Councils' Association

## MALTA

January 2012

### Cabinet Re-Shuffle

Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi has made a cabinet re-shuffle and the responsibility for local government has now shifted from the Office of the Prime Minister to the Minister of the Interior.

The new cabinet was formed on the 6th January 2012.



Chris Said, the parliamentary secretary that was responsible for local government has been appointed as Minister for Justice, Public Consultation and Home Affairs. The Executive Committee of the Local Councils' Association has written to Dr. Said to thank him for his co-operation with the LCA during his tenure as PS for local government. Dr. Said was responsible for the recent reforms in local government in 2008-2009.



The new minister for local government is Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, Minister for Interior and Parliamentary Affairs. Dr. Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici was born in 1960 and was first elected to Parliament in 1998. He has served as Parliamentary Secretary and in 2008 was appointed as Minister for Justice and the Interior.

### ALDA - final conference for STAND-UP PROJECT



The Local Councils' Association has hosted a two-day international conference in Malta as part of the EU funded project STAND-UP. The Lead Partner of the project was the Association of Local Democracy Agencies, in which the LCA is a member. The LCA has been working

with ALDA for the last three years and has participated in more than ten projects.

The speakers during the conference were: Per Vinther (President ALDA), Maureen Azzopardi (LCA), Mario De Donatis (Puglia Region), Jlenia Destito (IPRES), Sina Bugeja (FSWS), Vincent Magri (Freire Institute), Romina Bartolo (NCPE), Lilian Halls French (IFE-EFI), Vladimira Tsvetkova (Balkan Assist), Alfonso Aliberti (ALDA), Jimmy Magro (LCA), Michael Cohen (President LCA) and Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici (Minister of Interior & Parliamentary Affairs).

## PHILOXENIA PROJECT

The LCA has held a one day marathon of meetings with the beneficiaries in order to finalise the pending issues regarding their financial claims. These beneficiaries will benefit from a grant of a maximum €4500 as assistance in the setting up of their enterprise in Malta and Gozo. The LCA has approved 18 enterprises that may benefit from the Philoxenia Project, being carried out under the MED program.

The claims by the beneficiaries must be in conformity with the LCA's call, guidelines and the financial and publicity guidelines of the MED program. The LCA has been working with the PPCD to have the claims scrutinized before the payments are made in order to facilitate the final claim that will be made in April 2012, for the period 1st October 2011 to 31st March 2012.

The LCA has forwarded all the documentation collected from the beneficiaries to the PPCD and has requested the PPCD to prepare a brief list of all approved/eligible expenditure. On the basis of this list, the LCA will make the payments to the beneficiaries by mid-February 2012.

In the meantime, together with the external expert of the project, the LCA is building an e-network of the beneficiaries so that they can benefit from external exposure about their companies, services and products.

### EGOV4U STEERING COMMITTEE IN MALTA



The partners of the EGOV4U project held their steering committee meeting in Malta during the 19-20th January 2012. The meeting was held in Malta as planned following the evaluation meeting with the EU that was held in December 2011. The Evaluators and the Project Officer had agreed to suspend the project and requested a new approach through a revised Description of Works.

Although all the partners had made

clear and detailed presentations about the work being done in each country - Milton Keynes, Rijeka, Dublin, Rejkjavik and Malta - the EU felt that there was no pan-European value added in the project.

During the Malta meeting, where all partners were represented, the partners worked intensively to meet the requests of the Project Officer, which documents had to be sent to the PO by the end of January 2012. The Consortium composed of nine entities, is looking forward to have another meeting with the evaluators and the PO in February 2012 in order to discuss the future of the project.

In the meantime, in Malta, the intensive training on egov services is underway and more citizens are making enquiries how they can attend these courses in the future. The TV program EGOV4U has also boosted interest in egov services offered by the Government of Malta, which services will continue to increase through co-ordination with the Local Councils' Association.

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