"GUIDO DE MARCO" UNAOC SUMMER SCHOOL

BUILDING PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

03 – 07 September 2012

Co-organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the UNIVERSITY OF MALTA (MALTA)

In cooperation with:

With the special support of the Governments of Malta and of Brazil:
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I am thrilled to have this exciting opportunity to welcome the participants of the Guido de Marco Summer School, a joint initiative by the Government of Malta and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. Aimed at addressing some of the most pressing challenges to building dialogue and cooperation across divides in the Euro-Mediterranean area, this Summer School is focused on very acute issues such as mediation, conflict transformation and reconciliation as a peace building process.

At a time when there is a violent conflict ravaging one of the member countries of the Alliance of Civilizations in the Mediterranean and many other societies are undergoing deep transformations against a backdrop of economic recession affecting the whole region, it is more than timely for the UNAOC to engage further in equipping people – in particular young people – with tools for dialogue, conflict prevention and managing conflicts. Learning how to leave together at ease in a landscape of diversity and differences remains a big challenge of our century.

Organized in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, with the special support of the Brazilian Government which made a generous grant to the UNAOC Summer Schools in 2012, the Guido de Marco Summer School is part of the Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean, adopted at a Ministerial Conference held in Valetta in November 2010. It is the expression of the firm commitment of the Maltese Government towards building peace in the Mediterranean region through empowering youth and strengthening its capacity to build a better future.

Welcome you all to the Guido de Marco Summer School!

Jorge Sampaio, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations
The “Guido de Marco” Summer School is held from 3 to 7 September 2012 in Malta, at the University of Malta in La Valetta. The Guido de Marco Summer School brings together around 35 young people (from 18 to 30 years old) from various geographical horizons with a strong emphasis on the Euro-Mediterranean region, with different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, academic and professional profiles, from different walks of life and with a strong interest in facilitating dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution issues (See point 13 for the full list of participants and point 14 for their bios).

During the one-week course participants will acquire knowledge and tools to strengthen their ability to communicate across differences, interact with the “other” and look at diversity as an asset for cross-fertilization and inter-cultural exchange from which mutual trust, better understanding and an innovative mindset can emerge and proliferate.

Furthermore, this Special Summer School will place a particular focus on ideas, processes and methods that can facilitate dialogue and cooperation across divides, improve our understanding of conflict as well as our collective practice of changing the way actors approach conflict in order to reduce violence in dealing with tensions and seek to solve conflict through the harmonization of competing interests.

Indeed, conflicts can be defined in many different ways, ranging from a psychological state of affairs involving attitudes, emotional orientations, perceptual conditions and other psychological processes to social processes and political disputes. Examples of well identified conflicts in places around the world will be discussed by the participants. Furthermore, literacy on conflict prevention as well as on conflict resolution will be key dimensions of the programme of this Summer School. In our globalizing times when a conflict anywhere is a conflict everywhere, citizens should be able to excel. Yet there is a long way to go in order to fill this gap in our civic education.

The Guido de Marco Summer School will aim to contribute to close this gap. Moreover, this course will be a unique moment of practical follow up and implementation of some of the outcomes of the Global Forums of the Alliance held in 2008 (Madrid), 2009 (Istanbul), 2010 (Rio de Janeiro) and 2011 (Doha), in particular of its Youth Program.
This Course is an opportunity given to up to 35 young leaders to share, understand and integrate the objectives settled by the Alliance of Civilizations and better contribute to their achievement.

Participants will compare their approaches to youth work, youth participation and youth role in using dialogue as a process for transforming relationships, for mediation and conflict resolution practices in particular when protection of cultural diversity, respect among human beings in all diversities of belief, culture and language as well as tolerance are at stake.

Some of the following objectives of the Guido de Marco Summer School will help youth take an active part in implementing the Alliance’s goals and objectives at national and regional level and be further equipped to participate in cooperation projects:

1. Promoting the empowerment of youth by strengthening intercultural skills and competences
2. Strengthening young people’s capacity to get involved in the preparation and implementation of dialogue and cooperative action across divides
3. Facilitating understanding and practice of managing conflict - conflict prevention; mediation and conflict resolution; reconciliation as a peace-building process;
4. The role of media and conflict resolution
5. How culture matters to conflict resolution
6. Developing a network of young conflict negotiators
4. Methodology and expected outcomes

The course is designed as a process of mutual learning, with the participants' experiences and realities as the starting point of the training process. Active participation and in-depth reflection are the keys to the success of this course. Furthermore, the course will provide some theoretical and practical knowledge, whilst participants use their own background to compare their approaches to youth work and discuss their experience in dealing with conflict transformation. Furthermore, building upon the personal experience of participants will allow them to acquire a firm understanding of the three phases of conflict management - conflict prevention, resolution and reconciliation – as well as some skills and techniques to address violent conflicts at all stages.

The concrete objectives of this UNAOC Special Summer School are to enable participants:

- To develop a network of young resolute conflict negotiators;
- To launch a student-trainer network: by connecting participants to one another and to leading experts, the UNAOC will provide an active forum for alumni which in the future will also rely upon the network of Dialogue Cafés which will be operational in the Mediterranean area in a near future;
- To creat an embryonic “Guido de Marco platform on culture and conflict mediation”.

5. COURSES/LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

LECTURES & DEBATE

- The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations on the move by Helena Barroco.
- The UNAOC youth programming – overview by Dalia Sendra
- Dispute Management and Conflict Resolution by Dr James Calleja, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Employment
- Biographies Exercise by Dr. Omar Grech
- Introduction to Reconciliation by Dr. Colm Regan
- Human Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Area, by Dr. Omar Grech
- Introduction to Peace Education by Dr. Colm Regan
- Conflict resolution: resolving conflicts rationally and effectively, Dr. Mohamed Chtatou, Mohammed V University, Rabat-Agdal, Morocco
- Euro-Mediterranean Relations, by Prof. Stephen Calley
• Introduction to Reconciliation by Dr. Colm Regan
• Intercultural and interreligious dialogue and its role in the public sphere by Professor Fadi Adou. Discussion of concrete cases in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
• Migration as exchange by Dr. Derek Lutterbeck
• Conflict resolution: practical strategies and skills, Dr. Mohamed Chtatou, Mohammed V University, Rabat-Agdal, Morocco
• Empathy, sympathy and forgiveness – key concepts of our worldviews, Dr. Mohamed Chtatou, Mohammed V University, Rabat-Agdal, Morocco
• The Role of the Media in Peace-building
• Debating “Hate speech” through stories and comments about films – UNAOC
• The Role of Civil Society in Reconciliation
• Youth as Agents for Change by Vince Caruana

WORKSHOPS

• Workshop: Using Drama for Conflict Resolution, by Louise Ghirlando
• Global Education – what is it all about? Presentation of the Global Education Week and the “Guidelines on Global Education” including online training, by Dalia Sendra followed by presentations of projects by participants about the role of education (namely Right To Education in India by Iram Parveen; Education in Croatia by Tina Madunic)
• Egypt: challenges ahead – by Waleed Rashed followed by discussion
• “In someone’s shoe” by Zeina Kazak
• “How can we manage?” by Wiem Melki
• “The smallest minority on earth is the individual” by Anca Simona

PARTICIPANTS IN ACTION

Four clusters of working sessions on the basis of participants’ suggestions:

• “Sharing perceptions, discussing challenges and expectations: a glimpse of my country” – Egypt, Algeria, India, Jordanian, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Romania, Malta will be featured.
• Sharing experiences: a glimpse of my activities – “Mladiinfo” (Information Portal on Free Education) by Ajsela Spahija, “Use Art” by Anush Hayrapetyan, “Media and the Youth” by Natalia Rencic are among the projects to be featured
• Engaging in dialogue on hot spots: conflicts, tensions and disputes – Focus on Palestine by Mikel Haimour; East Jerusalem by Sara Benninga; Pakistan – the importance of inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue by Anam Gill; as well on
other topics such as “Web 2.0 a tool for more democracy?” by Christophoros Pavlakis.

- **Sharing talents**: designing, singing, dancing, drawing and writing – all together to prepare the closing ceremony.

6. **CULTURAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAMME – “Meet people and have fun”**

The UNAOC Summer School isn’t just about the classroom experience. It’s also about meeting new people and having fun! Full details of outings will be found in the folders.

**Sunday 2 September – Welcome Evening**

Informal gathering with a light meal and plenty of time to mingle! This is the perfect chance to meet everybody and to start making lots of new friends! See you there

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**Monday 3rd September**

The Opening Ceremony officially kicks off the UNAOC Summer School session and lets you get a glimpse of your new friends from all over the world.

In the afternoon: a fascinating guided tour of Valletta
Tuesday, 4 September

Walk to Grand Harbour. Boat trip across the Grand Harbour to the Three Cities. Guided Tour of the Three Cities ending at Birgu Waterfront

Wednesday 5th September

Free evening: preparing the farewell reception

Thursday, 6 September

In the afternoon, guided Tour of Mdina - the Silent City followed by free time

Friday, 7 September – Closing Ceremony and Farewell Reception

All good things must come to an end, but this evening is all about celebrating the time we’ve shared together! This is a great chance for us to get together one more time and reflect back on our Summer School experience. The closing ceremony and award of certificates will take place at at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Giorgio Borg Olivier Hall. Lots of inspiring speeches and farewell words to take home with you are guaranteed.

VENUE OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL: THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

The Summer School courses and workshops will take place at the University of Malta. The University of Malta is the highest teaching institution in Malta. It is publicly funded and is open to all those who have the requisite qualifications. Over the past years, the
University has reviewed its structures in order to be in line with the Bologna process and the European Higher Education Area. Conscious of its public role, the University strives to create courses which are relevant and timely in response to the needs of the country. The supreme governing bodies of the University are the Council and the Senate. There are some 11,000 students including over 650 international students from almost 80 different countries, following full-time or part-time degree and diploma courses, many of them run on the modular or credit system. The University regularly hosts a large number of Erasmus and other exchange students. A basic Foundation Studies Course enables international high school students who have completed their secondary or high school education overseas but who do not have the necessary entry requirements, to qualify for admission to an undergraduate degree course at the University of Malta.

The University is geared towards the infrastructural and industrial needs of the country so as to provide expertise in crucial fields. Almost 3,000 students graduate in various disciplines annually. The degree courses at the University are designed to produce highly qualified professionals, with experience of research, who will play key roles in industry, commerce and public affairs in general. There are a further 2,800 pre-tertiary students at the Junior College which is also managed by the University. The main campus is situated at Msida. There are two other campuses. One is the Valletta Campus which is housed in the original University Building which dates back to the founding of the Collegium Melitense and incorporates the Aula Magna. The Valletta Campus also serves as a prestigious setting for the hosting of international conferences, seminars, short courses and summer schools and is also the venue of the University's International Collaborative Masters Programme. The other is the Gozo Campus on Malta’s sister-island, Gozo, where part-time evening degree and diploma courses in various areas of study are offered. This campus also provides a venue for short courses and seminars and it houses the Guesten Atmospheric Research Centre, within the Physics Department.

The University today has thirteen faculties: Arts; Built Environment; Dental Surgery; Economics, Management & Accountancy; Education; Engineering; Health Sciences; Information & Communication Technology; Laws; Media & Knowledge Sciences; Medicine & Surgery; Science and Theology.
A number of interdisciplinary Institutes and Centres have been set up in various fields. The Institutes include Anglo-Italian Studies; Baroque Studies; Confucius; Criminology; Earth Systems; European Studies; Islands & Small States; Linguistics; Maltese Studies; Public Administration & Management; Physical Education & Sport; Sustainable Development; Sustainable Energy; Tourism, Travel & Culture; the Edward de Bono Institute for the Design & Development of Thinking; the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and the Mediterranean Institute. The Centres comprise: Centre for Biomedical Cybernetics; Centre for Environmental Education and Research; Centre for Family Studies; Centre for Labour Studies; Centre for Literacy; European Centre for Gerontology, European Centre of Educational Resilience & Socio-Emotional Health; Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research; Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics and the IOI - Malta Operational Centre.

The campus is also home to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI). The University of Malta is a member of the European University Association, the European Access Network, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Utrecht Network, the Santostela Group, the European Association for University Lifelong Learning (EUCEN) and the International Student Exchange Programme (ISEP). Over the years, the University has participated in a number of EU Programmes and has won many projects in collaboration with various partner universities. University of Malta staff and students regularly participate in programmes such as Erasmus and Leonardo.

Links have been forged with the local Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise & Industry and Malta’s Employment & Training Corporation in order to determine how the University, industry, business and the public sector can develop a mutually beneficial dialogue. Whilst acquainting potential employers with the knowledge and skills acquired by students during their courses, the University seeks to assess the needs of the various facets of the labour market in order to provide timely and relevant instruction. The Malta University Holding Company Ltd (MUHC) embodies the commercial interests of the University of Malta. The companies comprised in the Holding Company serve as the commercial interface between the University of Malta and the business community, brokering the resources and assets of the University to provide added value through commercial activity.

Address:

Msida – MSD 2080 – Malta

Tel.: +356 2340 2340; Fax: +356 2340 2342
8. The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC):

The programme and content of the Guido de Marco UNAOC Special Summer School is coordinated by the prestigious Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) in Malta. The MEDAC is an institution of higher learning offering advanced degrees in diplomacy and conflict resolution with a focus on Mediterranean issues.

MEDAC was established in 1990 pursuant to an agreement between the governments of Malta and Switzerland. The Academy is currently co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta in the framework of the Swiss contribution to the new European Union member states. The Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (HEID) was among MEDAC's first foreign partners. More recently, MEDAC has concluded an agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Foreign Office, in turn represented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and established a German Chair in Peace Studies and Conflict Prevention. Since its inception twenty-two years ago MEDAC has acquired a solid reputation both as an academic institution and as a practical training platform. We are fortunate to count over 500 alumni from 53 different countries who have completed successfully the post-graduate courses offered by the Academy. The EU’s enlargement towards the Mediterranean, that included Malta in 2004, and the recent transformation of the political landscape throughout the Arab World have resulted in an ever increasing demand for MEDAC's programme of studies.

MEDAC is a member of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) and in September 2010, MEDAC together with the DiploFoundation, hosted the 38th IFDT meeting. MEDAC is also a member of the European Diplomatic Training Initiative (ETDI), a group of EU diplomatic academies training EU personnel, a member of EuroMeSCo, and a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN). MEDAC is also part of the Advisory Board of the journal Europe’s World.
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:00 - 24.00</td>
<td>Arrivals - Welcome</td>
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<td>20.00</td>
<td>Get together – Light dinner and Introductions</td>
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<td>Day 1: Monday 3rd September</td>
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<tr>
<td>07.30 – 08.30</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td>08.30 – 09.00</td>
<td>Transport to University of Malta, Valletta Campus</td>
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| 09.00 – 09.15| Introductory remarks on behalf of the University of Malta and MEDAC
               | Prof. Stephen Calleya, Director of MEDAC                                                   |
| 09.15 -10.15 | Introduction to the Guido de Marco Summer School and the UN AoC, Helena Barroco, Special Adviser to the UN High Representative, President Jorge Sampaio |
| 10.15 – 11.15| Dispute Management and Conflict Resolution followed by debate, Dr James Calleja, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Employment |
| 11.15 – 11.30| Coffee Break                                                                              |
| 11.30 – 13.30| Biographies Exercise                                                                      |
|              | Dr. Omar Grech                                                                            |
| 13.30 – 14.30| Lunch at Si Mangia, South Street, Valletta                                                  |
| 14.30 – 15.00| “The floor is yours” - Sharing experiences: a glimpse of my country: Malta. Q&A           |
| 15.00 – 18.00| Cultural Visit: Guided Tour of Valletta (Malta Experience to tbc)                          |
18.00 – 18.30  Transport Valletta - Hotel  
18.30 – 19.30  Dinner at Hotel  
19.30 – 21.00  Hardtalk: Conflict resolution: resolving conflicts rationally and effectively, Dr. Mohamed Chtatou, Mohammed V University, Rabat-Agdal, Morocco

Day 2: Tuesday 4th September

07.30 – 08.30  Working Breakfast - Egypt: challenges ahead by Waleed Rashed followed by debate  
08.30 – 09.00  Transport to University of Malta, Valletta Campus  
09.00 - 11.00  Euro-Mediterranean Relations  
Prof. Stephen Calleya
11.00 – 11.30  Coffee Break  
11.30 – 13.30  Introduction to Reconciliation  
Dr. Colm Regan
13.30 – 15.30  Tour and Lunch at Ta’ Nenu Bakery, St. Dominic Street, Valletta
15.30 – 17.30  Workshop: Using Drama for Conflict Resolution  
Louise Ghirlando
17.30 – 18.00  Walk to Grand Harbour  
18.00 – 18.30  Boat trip across the Grand Harbour to the Three Cities
18.30 – 20.30  Guided Tour of the Three Cities ending at Birgu Waterfront  
20.30 – 21.00  Transport to Hotel  
21.00 – 21.30  Dinner at Hotel.
21.30 -22.30  Workshop – In someone’s shoe by Zeina Kazak
Day 3: Wednesday 5th September

07.30 – 08.30  Working Breakfast: Presentation of our Special Guest, Professor Fadi Adou, President of the Adyan foundation (Lebanon) by Helena Barroco. Morning Q&A

08.30 – 09.00  Transport to University of Malta, Valletta Campus

09.00 - 11.00  Human Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Area
  
  Dr. Omar Grech

11.00 – 11.15  Walk to Palazzo Ferreira

11.15 – 12.15  Meeting with Hon. Minister Dolores Cristina, Minister of Education and Employment, at Palazzo Ferreira, Valletta. Refreshments included.

12.15 – 12.30  Walk to UoM Valletta Campus

12.30 – 14.30  Introduction to Peace Education
  
  Dr. Colm Regan

14.30 – 15.30  Lunch at Cafe Caravaggio, St John’s Square, Valletta


17.30 – 19.30  Engaging in dialogue on hot spots: conflicts, tensions and disputes – Focus on Palestine by Mikel Haimour; East Jerusalem by Sara Benninga; Pakistan – the importance of inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue by Anam Gill;

Free evening
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<td>07.30 – 08.30</td>
<td>Working Breakfast: informed debate on “Web 2.0 a tool for more democracy?” by Christophoros Pavlakis.</td>
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<td>08.30 – 09.00</td>
<td>Transport to University of Malta, Valletta Campus</td>
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<td>09.00 - 11.00</td>
<td>Migration as exchange by Dr. Derek Lutterbeck</td>
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<td>11.00 – 11.30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>11.30 – 13.30</td>
<td>The Role of the Media in Peace-building</td>
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<td>Lourdes Pullicino</td>
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<td>13.45 – 14.30</td>
<td>Tour of St James Cavalier, Centre for Creativity</td>
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<td>14.30 – 15.30</td>
<td>Lunch at Inspirations Pasta House</td>
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<td>15.30 - 17.30</td>
<td>Conflict resolution: practical strategies and skills, Dr. Mohamed Chtatou, Mohammed V University, Rabat-Agdal, Morocco</td>
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<td>17.30 – 18.00</td>
<td>Transport to Mdina</td>
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<td>18.00 – 20.30</td>
<td>Guided Tour of Mdina - the Silent City followed by free time</td>
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<td>20.30 – 21.00</td>
<td>Transport to Hotel</td>
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<td>21.00 – 21.30</td>
<td>Dinner at Hotel</td>
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<td>22.00-23.30</td>
<td>Sharing experiences: a glimpse of my activities – “Mladiinfo” (Information Portal on Free Education) by Ajsela Spahija, “Use Art” by Anush Hayrapetyan, “Media and the Youth” by Natalia Rencic are among the projects to be featured</td>
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Day 5: Friday 7th September

07.30 – 08.30 Working Breakfast – “Education matters! From global to national perspectives” by Dalia Sendra, Iram Parveen and Tina Madunic

08.30 – 09.00 Transport to University of Malta, Valletta Campus

09.00 – 11.00 Empathy, sympathy and forgiveness – key concepts of our worldviews, Dr. Mohamed Chtatou, Mohammed V University, Rabat-Agdal, Morocco

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.30 Youth as Agents for Change
Vince Caruana

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch at Kantina Kafe, St. John Square, Valletta

14.30 – 15.30 Debate on outcomes, concrete projects and way forward—moderated by Helena Barroco and Dalia Sendra

15.30 – 16.00 Walk to Ministry of Foreign Affairs

16.00 – 19.00 Closing Ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Giorgio Borg Olivier Hall:

16.00–17.00 Presentation of a video produced by the participants “Best-of the Summer School” and closing remarks by Helena Barroco, Special Adviser to President Sampaio, UN High Representative

17.00–17.30 Address by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta, Dr John Paul Grech

17.30–18.00 Address by Hon. Dr Mario de Marco, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Environment - intervention related to the life and work of Prof. Guido de Marco, presentation of copies of Guido de Marco’s “Politics of Persuasion” (to be confirmed)

18.00 – 18.15 Presentation of Certificates
18.15 – 19.00 Reception
19.00 – 19.30    Transport to Hotel

20.30- 21.30    “Sharing perceptions, discussing challenges and expectations: a glimpse of our countries” by all followed by “How can we manage?” by Wiem Melki

Saturday , 8th September

08:00 - 24.00    Departures

10. ACCOMMODATION

Participants will be distributed in twin rooms at the Hotel Kappara:

Hotel Kappara
Triq Wied Ghollieqa,
Kappara, L/O San Gwann
Malta
Phone: +356 27 334 460 - 3
Email: info@hotelkappara.com

The hotel is located in the suburb of San Gwann, called Kappara. Fifty metres uphill, exiting the hotel, on your right, there are two bus stops opposite each other displaying details of the extensive public bus service available. Turning left walking downhill from the hotel there are some shortcuts and walkable paths that lead you to the University Campus. Reception is more than happy to direct you accordingly.

Hotel Kappara is an exquisitely appointed small 3 star hotel, which features all the necessary comforts and services holiday makers and travellers seek.

The hotel offers superior quality accommodation, featuring twin rooms with private bath or shower, some of which have a private balcony. All rooms have LCD TV showing 37 free cable stations, air conditioning and a conceptual self-catering option if required.

The hotel also features a cosy restaurant-bar with terrace, spacious open sundeck and private pool with bar service, and a private roof enjoying magnificent views with a spacious sun terrace and a pool spa. From the rooftop sun terrace one can enjoy distant views of the capital city, Valletta, and one can just sense the hustle and bustle of the towns of Sliema and St Julian’s.
The hotel is ideally located just 3km away from the shopping centre in Sliema and 4km from the nightlife hub in St Julian’s. The University of Malta is within walking distance. A hotel transport service is also available, as well as a bus stop nearby which is served by a public bus service.

Situated in an affluent residential area, Hotel Kappara derives its name from the area it is located in, the small village community of ‘Kappara’ (Maltese for caper plant), which was known in times gone by as a popular place where the Caper plant grew profusely. This is still the case as one cannot help noticing the presence of this evergreen plant in the surroundings.

The hotel is tastefully decorated and is pleasantly appealing, with extremely courteous and professional personnel and offering very competitive rates. One can either stay on Bed and Breakfast or Half Board basis, or opt to use the self-catering facilities, which can still be rented if a guest wishes to retain another board basis.

The hotel is recommended for anyone wanting to have comfortable accommodation with peaceful, quiet surroundings while being able to reach any place on the island with ease.

11. MEALS AND FOOD

Meals will be provided to all participants according to the schedule (see point , pages 12-17). Breakfast and dinner will be served at the Hotel Kappara whereas lunches will be taken in various interesting locations in town. Halal and vegetarian options will be available.

Meals will comprise soup, bread, a main dish and a piece of fruit. If you are worried about observing dietary restrictions for religious or health reasons, you can consult the daily menus. However a vegetarian meal will always be proposed.

**Maltese Cooking** (from wikipedia)

Reflecting Maltese history, Maltese cuisine shows strong Sicilian and English influences as well as influences of Spanish, French, Maghrebin, Provençal, and other Mediterranean cuisines.

Malta’s history and geography had an important influence on its cuisine. Having had to import most of its foodstuffs, positioned along important trade routes and having to cater for the resident foreign powers who ruled the islands, opened Maltese cuisine to outside influences from very early on. Foreign dishes and tastes were absorbed, transformed and adapted.\[1\] Italian (specifically Sicilian), Middle Eastern and Arabic
foods exerted a strong influence, but the presence in Malta of the Knights of St John and, more recently, the British brought elements from further afield.

The Knights hailed from many European countries; particularly, France, Italy and Spain. They brought influences from these countries. *Aljotta*, for example, a fish broth with plenty of garlic, herbs, and tomatoes is the Maltese adaptation of bouillabaisse. The Knights' contacts and wealth brought also food from the New World; it has been suggested that Malta may have been one of the first countries in Europe (after Spain) where chocolate was first tasted.

The British military presence meant a market of a garrison and their families and, later, mass tourism from the UK. British food products, condiments and sauces like English mustard, Bovril, HP Sauce and Worcestershire sauce are still a subtle but pervasive presence in Maltese cooking.

Other imports were only nominal. While the Maltese word "aljoli" is likely to be a loan word, the Maltese version of the sauce does not include any egg as in aioli; instead it is based on herbs, olives, anchovies and olive oil. Similarly, while the Maltese word "taġen" is related to "tajine" in Maltese the word refers exclusively to a metal pan.

There are a number of junctures in which development in Maltese cuisine related to issues of identity. The most significant example is the traditional Maltese fenkata (eating stewed rabbit), often identified as the national dish, quite possibly started off as a form of symbolic resistance to the hunting restrictions imposed by the Knights of St John. The dish was to become popular after the lifting of restrictions in the late 18th century (and by which time the indigenous breed had multiplied and prices dropped) and the domestication of rabbits, a technique which could have been imported from France thanks to the French Knights.

The popularity of pork and its presence in various dishes could be attributed to Malta being on the edge of the Christian world. Consuming a food which is taboo in the Muslim culinary culture could have been a way of self-identification by distinguishing oneself from the other. In addition to pork dishes (such as grilled pork cuts or stuffed flank) and the exclusive predominance of pork in indigenous Maltese sausages, adding some pork to dishes such as *kawlata* (a vegetable soup) and *ross il-forn* (baked rice) have been common practice in the Maltese vernacular cuisine for centuries.
Shopping for International Food

Nearby the Hotel, there are a number of supermarkets within easy reach where a wide variety of international foods are available. In addition, there are a number of health food shops in town which sell a wide range of cereals as well as some spices.

12. USEFUL INFORMATION

HEALTH-MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, CHEMISTS AND PHARMACIES IN MALTA

Medical care in Malta is available through public and private hospitals. The quality of medical care in Malta is excellent. Private hospitals generally offer a higher standard of service than the public hospitals. Most of the best rated doctors practice in private medical facilities.

We strongly urge you to consult your medical insurance company prior to consulting medical services to confirm whether their policy applies and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as health care expenses incurred overseas including emergency services such as medical evacuations.

Your existing medical insurance carrier may cover "customary and reasonable" medical care while you are abroad. Usually, if reimbursement is provided, it is paid at a reduced rate (due to the use of an "out of system" provider). Check with your insurance carrier before you depart to determine the type and amount of coverage that may be provided. If coverage is provided, be sure to ask how claims should be filed and ask them to send some claim forms, in case you require any medical treatment while on vacation.

EMERGENCY

Firstly, in the case of an emergency, both Malta & Gozo have very good hospitals with ‘Accident & Emergency’ departments. (The new ‘Mater Dei’ hospital in Malta is ‘state-of-the-art’) Emergency treatment will usually be free to EU citizens upon production of an EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) so it is wise to apply for one (free of charge) before you travel & carry it with you while on holiday in Malta. If your need is not an emergency, most of the chemists & pharmacies in Malta & Gozo have trained pharmacists who can provide you with general advice while on your holiday. Some have a GP operating from their premises and if not, local private doctors can easily be found with most operating a ‘call-out’ facility if you feel you are unable to make it to their surgery/clinic. A consultation will incur a minimal fee, typically €5 – €10 and further treatment fees can be agreed with the physician if required. Additionally, wheelchairs
are available to hire in most Malta holiday resorts, (including electric ones) if mobility is an issue.

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY (Fire, Ambulance, Police): DIAL 112**
MALTA: Mater Dei Hospital Accident & Emergency, Tal- Qroqq St, Msida, Malta Tel: (00356) 25450000

**PHARMACIES**

The opening hours of pharmacies in Malta & Gozo tend to vary so if you are in any doubt just call your nearest one listed below for further information.

**LIST OF CHEMISTS & PHARMACIES IN MAIN TOURIST AREAS ACROSS MALTA:**

**SLEIMA**

Chemimart Ltd. Pharmacy: 4,5,6, il-Piazzetta, Triq it-Torri, Sliema, Malta. Tel: (00356) 21338369
Edwards Pharmacy: 115, Manuel Dimech St, Sliema, Malta Tel: (00356) 21334102
Mrabat Pharmacy: 5, L-Imrabat St, Sliema, Malta Tel: (00356) 21313535
Norman’s Pharmacy: 82, it-Torri St, Sliema, Malta Tel: (00356) 21332243
St Frances Pharmacy: 293, Manuel Dimech St, Sliema, Malta Tel: (00356) 21311033
Economical Dispensary: 86-87, Sir Adrian Dingli St, Sliema, Malta Tel: (00356) 21330376
Drugstore, 382 Manuel Dimech St, Sliema, Malta. Tel: (00356) 21334627 / 21344721
Rudolph Pharmacy, 133 Rodolfu St, Sliema, Malta. Tel: (00356) 21330312
Victor’s Pharmacy, 9 it-Torri St, Sliema, Malta. Tel: (00356) 21330352
Wales Pharmacy, 183 Manwel Dimech St, Sliema, Malta. Tel: (00356) 21335492
Stella Maris Pharmacy, 34 Milner St, Sliema, Malta. Tel: (00356) 21335217

**VALLETTA**

Collis Williams Pharmacy: 300, Republic St, Valletta, Malta Tel: (00356) 21314329
Royal Pharmacy: 271-272, Republic St, Valletta, Malta Tel: (00356) 21234321
Empire Pharmacy: 46, Melita St, Valletta, Malta Tel: (00356) 21238577
Empire Pharmacy, 77 Old Theatre St, Valletta, Malta. Tel: (00356) 21246442
New British Dispensary: 109, San Gwann St, Valletta, Malta Tel: (00356) 21244813
Chemimart Ltd: 3, Misrah il-Helsien, Valletta, Malta. Tel: (00356) 21238355
Regent Pharmacy: 70, Triq Merkanti, Valletta, Malta. Tel: (00356)
WORKHOURS

Work

Business hours:
Banks 8.30am-12.30pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am-11.30am Sat.
Government museums 9am-5pm daily; closed major public holidays
Eating Noon-3pm and 7pm-11pm.
Shopping 9am-1pm and 4pm-7pm Mon-Sat; closed Sun and public holidays. Some shops stay open all day in summer, especially in tourist areas

MONEY

All major credit cards are widely accepted.
The euro replaced the lira as the new national currency on 1 January 2008.
Banks are the best place to change money; they almost always offer a significantly better rate than hotels or restaurants.
It’s a good idea to round up a taxi fare or restaurant bill to leave a small tip. Shops have fixed prices; hotels and car-hire agencies offer reduced rates in the low and shoulder seasons (October to May). There's an 18% value-added tax on most consumer items.

Getting from/to the airport to/from Malta

Malta is well connected to Europe and North Africa. All flights arrive at and depart from Malta International Airport (MLA; 2124 9600; www.maltairport.com) at Luqa, 8km south of Valletta.

The organizers will coordinate the transfers between the Airport and the Hotel – arrival and departures. For daily programme, ground transportation will be provided to the participants.
13. PARTICIPANTS – profile and nominal list

The participants in this course are mainly students and representatives or members of youth organizations, young professionals, graduate students who are actively engaged in civic action aimed at facilitating intercultural and inter-religious dialogue or working in the field of conflict resolution, notably in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The Guido de Marco Summer School comprises a balanced and effective group of young participants drawn from a broad spectrum of countries, religions and ethnicities.

2012 Summer School – family photo
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mohammad Tahir Sakhi</td>
<td>Afghan</td>
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<td>Ajsela Spahija</td>
<td>Albanian</td>
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<td>Nacer Mohamed Chrif Tayeb</td>
<td>Algerian</td>
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<td>Soumia Alloui</td>
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<td>Anush Hayrapetyan</td>
<td>Armenian</td>
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<td>Elsy Melkonian</td>
<td>Armenian/Syrian</td>
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<td>Natalia Rencic</td>
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<td>Tina Madunić</td>
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<td>Nourhan Saleh</td>
<td>Egyptian</td>
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<td>Waleed Rashed</td>
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<td>Basant Mahmoud</td>
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<td>Abdelmohsen Mahmoud</td>
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<td>Enas Eltomy Khalifa</td>
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<td>Ghada Mohammed Ali</td>
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<td>Christoforos Pavlakis</td>
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<td>Iram Parveen</td>
<td>Indian</td>
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<td>Sara Benninga</td>
<td>Israeli</td>
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<td>Aseel Zahran</td>
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<td>Shahd Hammouri</td>
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<td>Khaled Jawish</td>
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<td>Zeina Kazak</td>
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Daniel Sammut
Paula Galea
Soukaina Chakkour
Anam Gill
Jihan Alfarra
Mikel Haimur
Tareq Dardona
Alina Buteica
Anca-Simona Georgescu
Marta Perez Soria
Wiem Melki
Slim Belhadji
Sevda Dağ
Serhiy Kulchevych
Rachel Steinberg

Maltese
Maltese
Moroccan
Pakistani
Palestinian
Palestinian
Palestinian
Romanian
Romanian
Spanish
Tunisian
Tunisian
Turkish
Ukrainian
United States
AJSELA SPAHIJA
Ajsela Spahija (Albania) has been graduated for Political Science from the University of Tirana. She holds a specialization in Democracy and Local Development Studies by Istituto Di Formazione Politica "Pedro Arrupe" in collaboration with Magis Tirana. For the last 5 year, Ajsela has been working for Albanian Forum for Alliance of Civilizations (AFALC), one of the most professional and important voices of the Albanian civil society dedicated to Intercultural and Inter-religious dialogue. Throughout her work, Ajsela has been engaged in peace-building activities and promotion of democratic social development. Ajsela is working also as a volunteer for Mladiinfo, a youth organization which works on empowering young people from developing countries by offering them information on various educational opportunities. Ajsela believes that youths with their energy and enthusiasm are a strategic resource that given the chance will bring positive results in society.

ALINA CRISTINA BUTEICA
She is from Romania and is a NGO Project Manager,

ANAM GILL
Anam Gill is a journalist and Outreach coordinator for the Rio +20 Global Youth Music Contest. She has contributed articles to The News International, Dawn Group of Newspapers and The Express Tribune. Anam also worked as Content and Outreach Coordinator for Forgotten Diaries; Interactive Resource Centre as a Program Associate. She was member of International Jury 2011 for the Youth Video Competition known as Plural+ of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

ANCA SIMONA GEORGESCU
Anca is a member of a local NGO in Romania targeting young people suffering from disabilities. Through both formal education and social and cultural activities, it aims to instill universal values in youth, to help them develop and interact in a diverse and ever changing world. As part of her experience, with the help of European Structural Funds and Proyecto Hombre Espana she developed a documentary film (‘Right Beside You”) containing good practice models in the field of social services. Attending the 1st UNAOC Summer School and the 2nd UNAOC Regional Conference for S-E Europe enabled her to connect with young people who amazed her with their bright ideas and personal examples. She is currently working in a law firm specialized in lobbying and government relations, whilst pursuing a degree programme in English Law with German Law at University of Oxford. Anca is passionate about public international law, travelling, horse riding and tennis.
ANUSH HAYRAPPETIAN
Anush Hayrapetyan is a youth leader and social entrepreneur. She has been leading a number of youth initiatives, including the Forgotten Diaries project aiming to raise the awareness of neglected conflicts happening in the world and empower youth in these zones to make a change. Her activity has been recognized with a number of awards, such as the Hero of Millennium 2011 award as a prominent young leader and many others. Anush is committed to idea of bringing a change in the world full of challenges. With this idea in mind, she founded the Use Art project which educates, raises awareness about and inspires action against global challenges while exposing meaningful art products, such as earrings., on an online platform Anush is a board member at YouAct, European Youth Network on Sexual and Reproductive Rights and has a Specialist diploma in International Relations and an LLM degree in Human rights.

ASEEL ZAHRAN
Being a Jordanian from Palestinian origins, Aseel has always been passionate about cross-cultural dialog and transcending the imaginary geography that creates the other. Her journey started when she joined Soliya, a network of young people from all different backgrounds sharing their thoughts on a variety of divisive issues such as identity and belonging, as volunteer and facilitator. She is currently working with the Abraham's Path Initiative, helping develop a network of cultural routes and hiking trails that aim at promoting cultural exchanges and responsible tourism through simple acts of hospitality and sharing. She is also part of the Ambassadors For Dialog project, providing training to local communities on the noble art of dialog.
Aseel believes that it is the simplest forms of sharing that can help people overcome their conflicts. She sees cross-cultural exchanges not just as an opportunity to deepen mutual understanding, but also an opportunity to better understand who we are and become more aware of our own biases and blind-spots. In her free time, she enjoys endless cups of tea and hiking.

COLM REGAN
Colm Regan is currently Co-ordinator of the Irish development and human rights education organisation 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World. He is an educational activist with a strong interest in the interface between the educational process and human rights, justice and human development – an area in which he has worked for over 30 years. Colm studied Geography and History at University College Dublin and subsequently Geography and Development Studies at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver (MA) and McGill University, Montreal (PhD). He has worked in applied education in the non-governmental, third level and adult and youth education sectors in Ireland (North and South) and internationally. His career has included work in the United Kingdom, Australia, Rwanda, Brazil and Ethiopia. He has worked extensively in Zambia on programmes focused on women’s rights, human rights and HIV and AIDS since 2000 in partnership with local organisations. Colm has published widely in international journals and magazines and is author and co-author of a number of books.
and educational resources. He initiated and edited a popular human rights and
development education resource 80:20 Development in An Unequal World now in its
5th edition and which is widely used internationally, particularly in Africa.

CHRISTOFOROS PAVLAKIS
Christoforos (26) is originally from Athens, Greece but is currently based in Brussels.
What characterises him in short: Food & arts aficionado, data ninja, interested in all
things digital. His beliefs: A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.

DALIA SENDRA
Dalia Sendra is currently a consultant for the UNAOC and Euro-Med Project Manager of
the North-South Centre. She holds a master degree on development cooperation and
management of cultural heritage. She is finalizing a Master degree on Culture Law.

HELENA BARROCO
Portuguese diplomat, she is special Adviser to President Jorge Sampaio. She holds a PhD
in Philosophy of Quantum Physics (Leuven University, Belgium) and a Master degree on
Linguistics/translation studies (Licence at Leuven University, Master at Mons University,
Belgium).

DANIEL SAMMUT
From Malta.

DEREK LUTTERBECK
Deputy Director (Academic Affairs) and Holder of the Swiss Chair and Lecturer in
International History, Dr. Derek Lutterbeck joined MEDAC in 2006 as lecturer in
international history and deputy director. Previously he was working as a programme
coordinator at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, where he inter alia was
responsible for a training programme for junior Swiss diplomats, as well as for the
Centre’s training activities in southern Mediterranean countries. Before that, he worked
as a consultant for the International Organisation for Migration and the International
Labour Organisation, as a lecturer for the Diplomatic Studies Programme of the
Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, and as a researcher for a three-year
project on Swiss foreign policy funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.
Derek Lutterbeck earned a Masters and Ph.D in Political Science from the Graduate
Institute of International Studies, as well as a Masters Degree in Law from the University
of Zürich. In 1999, he was awarded the Prix Arditi in International Relations from the
Arditi Foundation in Geneva. His research interests include various contemporary
security issues, such as transnational organised crime, recent developments in policing,
and security sector reform issues, as well as migration and refugee policies. His teaching
interests include 20th century international history, the transformation of violent
conflict and terrorism. He has published articles in academic journals such as the
European Journal of International Relations, Mediterranean Politics, European Security, Cooperation and Conflict, and Bürgerrechte und Polizei.


ELSY MELKONIAN
From Syria.

ENAS ELTOMY KHALIFA ELTOMY
From Egypt

FADI ADOU
Professor of Foundational theology, Political Philosophy and intercultural dialogue
Maronite priest; Associate General Secretary, responsible of Christian-Muslim dialogue
in the Middle-East Council of Churches.

Fadi Adou is President of the Adyan Foundation, established on August 6, 2006. ADYAN is a Lebanese foundation for interfaith studies and spiritual solidarity, with Christian and Muslim founding members: Fadi Daou (Professor in Fundamental Theology and Political Philosophy), Nayla Tabbara (Professor in Religious and Islamic Studies), Tony Sawma (Educational Leader and researcher in psycho-sociology), Mireille Matar (Teacher and Social worker) and Samah Halwany (Researcher and Lecturer in Sociology of Conflicts).

Adyan is registered in Lebanon as a non-governmental and non-profit organization (NGO), under the number 1103, by ministerial decree dated September 18, 2008. Adyan is an independent organization. It achieves its mission in Lebanon and abroad, regionally and internationally, through different programs, in cultural, educational, social and spiritual areas. In addition to its members, ADYAN benefits from the commitment and the support of its three Networks: the Volunteers, the Consultants and the Friends.

GHADA MOHAMED ALY MOHAMED
Ghada Ali holds a B.A in phsychology.she works as a secretaty at finincial control sector since 2011.she worked for a year as auditor at administrative control.Ghada is planinng to shift her career field to "intercultural dialogue".

IRAM PARVEEN
I am a development sector professional; my last job was with Johns Hopkins University- Center for Communication program in India. I have done post graduation in Social Work and diploma in Mass Communication and Resource Mobilization from Delhi University. I have also done another post graduation in Human Rights and International Law from Delhi itself.

I have more than 6 years of experience in research, evaluation, community mobilisation, Strategic planning and proposal development with many national and international
organizations. Apart from my professional experience, I am always passionate to work on youth issues. This is my enthusiasm and motivation to advocate for the youth issues that I represented as a youth delegate in many national and international forums. To continue my passion and with the objective of right based approach on youth issues, we registered our youth organization called I CONCERN, which is a youth driven, youth led Non Profit organization that encourages youth to carry out advocacy work at regional, national and international level. It promotes youth leaders and youth organizations, which are working in the field of global interdependence to strengthen their ability to communicate across difference.

The Journey of I Concern started in 2010, when I participated in Global Youth Training Program, organized by ICMYO in Spain. Later I participated in the summer school and represented as a youth in Doha Forum, which inspired me to start working on the youth field. I along with my youth friends are now working to cater the fields of youth, education and migration through our small I CONCERN organisation.

JAMES CALLEJA
Dr James Calleja is a permanent part-time Lecturer at the Department of International Relations of the University of Malta where he teaches subjects related to Peace and Conflict Studies, Theories of International Relations, International Institutions, Federalism and Globalisation. Dr Calleja is the Chief Executive of the Malta Qualifications Council and a Visiting Professor of the European University Centre for Peace Studies in StadtSchlaining, Austria. Dr Calleja is a graduate of the University of Malta (1981), the University of Padua (1986) and the University of Bradford (1991) from where he obtained a Ph.D. in Peace Studies. Dr Calleja has lectured in various countries in Europe, North America, South East Asia, Australia, North Africa, China and in the Middle East. He published several books, articles and papers in Malta and internationally. Dr Calleja’s current professional interests lie with Conflict Management, Mediation Skills and Policy in Vocational Training. Dr Calleja represents Malta on the EU’s Implementation Group of the European Qualifications Framework and on the Bologna Follow-Up Group. He is an Accredited Mediator with C.E.D.R. London and Director of Training of Malta Dispute Management Limited.

JIHAN ALFARRA
Jehan AlFarra is a 21 year old blogger and a multi-media activist in the Gaza Strip. Jehan advocates the Palestinian cause and the reality of life in Gaza through social media and various multi-media outlets, and collaborating with international and local organizations.

Jehan was a Youth Council Member at the Mercy Corps’ GCC (Global Citizen Corps) program where she joined her first blogging team, Beyond Our Borders. Jehan now runs her own blog and is one of the active and founding members of Diwan Ghazza, a cultural forum in Gaza. She used to be a member of the Palestinian Youth Advocacy Network (PYAN) at the House of Wisdom in Gaza, where she was also a member of the delegations’ reception protocol. Much of Jehan’s work with international and local
organizations involved English language training, interpretation, and translation of both English and Arabic.

**JUANITO CAMILLERI**

Since July 2006, Prof. Camilleri has held the post of Rector of the University of Malta. Prior to the rectorship, he held the position of Group Chief Executive Officer of Melita Cable plc, a company which at the time was partly owned by Liberty Global, Inc.; before this position, he was the founding Chief Executive Officer of Go Mobile, now Malta’s leading cellular mobile operator. He has recently been appointed Chairman of the Malta Council for Science and Technology.

Prof. Camilleri read a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science at the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK, obtaining First Class Honours, and was awarded a Rotary Prize for Distinction. He obtained a scholarship awarded by Trinity College and moved to Cambridge, UK, to pursue a doctorate in Theoretical Computer Science, which he completed in 1990 at the age of 23. He started his working career as a Research Fellow at the Computer Laboratory of the University of Cambridge, UK and at the time also worked as a Research Consultant. In 1992, he moved back to Malta and founded the Department of Computer Science and AI at the University of Malta, where he worked until 1999. In the meantime, he was commissioned by the Government of Malta to formulate Malta’s first National Strategy for Information Technology, which was published in 1994.

Prof. Camilleri has sat on the board of directors of a number of organisations including Enemalta, the Malta Development Corporation, Malta Information Technology and Training Services Ltd (MITTS), the Malta Council for Science and Technology, and Maltacom plc, among others. Until recently he was also a board member of Melita Cable plc. Prof. Camilleri has also served as Malta’s representative on the European Union Joint Research Council (JRC). Prof. Camilleri is married to Dr. Astrid Camilleri, M.D., M.R.C.O.G., and has a daughter Bettina. His hobbies are viticulture, wine making, and cuisine.

**KHALED JAWISH**

He is from Lebanon and works in the Dayan Foundation where he is the main organizer of the Discussion Sessions in the Volunteers Network. He has namely coordinated a dialogue session on “Religious Practices: Enforcement vs. Public Ban” which focused on discussing aspects of certain religious codes being banned in some parts of our society while other codes enforced in a different place.

**LOURDES POULICINO**

Ms Lourdes Pullicino is currently Research Assistant and Teaching Associate at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC). She worked for 20 years as a journalist, particularly in radio and television newsrooms. For the last five years she has
been producing the award-winning current affairs programme Newsroom, aired on Net TV. She is also a lecturer at the Communications Department within the University of Malta.

LOU GHIRLANDO
Lou Ghirlando is a social theatre practitioner and a trained dramatherapist. Her main line of work has been in the field of theatre and disability as part of which she was founding artistic director of Opening Doors. She is visiting lecturer with the Theatre Studies Programme as well as the Programme for Inclusive Education at the University of Malta.

MARTA PEREZ SORIA
Degree in Law, after several years of practice, particularly in immigration and asylum Law, she decided to move to other areas, i.e. first studying a Master in International Business and Relations and working at the Instituto Cervantes, and then studying a postgraduate in Prevention and Management of International Crisis and working as an adviser/expert with the Ambassador at Large for the Alliance of Civilizations at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, where she remained for two years. She is currently employed as a consultant undertaking projects and other duties for other organizations at national and international level.

MICAEL KHALED HASHEM HAIMUR
He is Palestinian, born on 9 October 1989, in Bethlehem, Palestine. In 2011 he got a LL.M. in Commercial Law at the Alexandria University, Egypt. He followed a legal Training in Shehadeh law office in Bethlehem to raise his legal background. Among his interests and hobbies, there are music (he loves to listen to different bands, specially classic music), sport (such as swimming- he participated in different competitions and represented the Palestinian national team in several competitions either domestic or abroad) and travel (travel is really one of his favorite hobbies – he loves to visit many countries because it’s one of the best way that let us get closer to different people and different cultures at the same time, in the same way travel give us more confidence and more experience in life - the countries that I liked most are Spain, Portugal; cities that I would like to visit are: Barcelona, Venice, Roma, and Geneva).

MOHAMED CHTATOU
Mohamed Chtatou was born on the 5th February 1952 in a prison of the French colonial power in the village of Boured in northwest Morocco where his entire family was imprisoned because of my father’s struggle for independence of Morocco from France. After independence they were released from jail and moved to the capital city Rabat where he received his primary, secondary and higher education. In 1976 he graduated from Mohammed V University with honours and was granted a scholarship to further his studies in Great Britain. Once in Britain he did first a Diploma in general linguistics at University College London, then moved on to the School of Oriental and African Studies
SOAS- part of the University of London where he took a M.Phil in 1980 and a PhD in Berber language and culture in 1982. After he worked for Inner London Education Authority as a mother tongue specialist and also for the BBC as a freelance journalist specialised in Middle East issues.

In 1984, he returned to Morocco and started teaching cultural studies and cultural anthropology at the Mohammed V University. In 1987 he joined the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization –ISESCO- and have been since working on higher education, literacy, dialogue of cultures and civilizations, inter-faith dialogue and conflict management. Currently he is responsible for cooperation with international organizations such as the UN, UNAOC, UNESCO, FAO, UNFPA, WHO, UNEP, World Bank, British Council, etc. He is also responsible for the UNAOC Fellowship Programme at ISESCO in Morocco. He has several scientific publications in Arabic, French and English on such issues as education, literacy, dialogue, cultural anthropology, cross-culture, inter-faith dialogue, conflict management, cultural diversity, language and religion, etc.

NACER MOHAMED CHRIF TAYEB

TA\eeb Nacer Mohamed Cherif is a young activist from Algeria. He is graduating from the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (IGEE). Although being an outstanding student, engineering it is not his main interest. He is more passionate about leadership, politics, public administration and persuasion.

Throughout the last years of his studies he founded the Sahw Association. He was the youngest president of the Inelectronic Student Club and he actively worked with several NGOs in the country. He also had such an impressive international experience be\eeoming a MEPI Alumni and representing the country among other MENA countries in the US where he participated in several workshops and conferences at universities like GU, NYU, MSU and UD. He also represented the country in the Russian federation’s event about World Politics and International Relations. Besides all that, Nacer is an outgoing, gregarious and fun being as his friends describe him.

NATALIA RENCIC

I'm Natalia Rencic, and I was a student of the European studies at the College of Europe in Parma, Italy. Previously I was Master of arts student in the Peace and Conflict studies at the European Peace University in Stadtschlaining, Austria, while in Croatia I've obtained MA degree in Theology.

Additionally, during the last year I was R. Schuman Foundation Stagier in the European Parliament.

During the last 5 years, I was working with different online and newspaper media in Croatia and international one. I was also volunteer in two NGO-s, Caritas Rijeka and a local one, Family for youth, in Croatia. During my studies I was part time working in the local tourist agencies. Some of my hobbies are swimming, dancing, traveling and reading.
NOURHAN SALEH
Coordinator- Department of The Dialogue of Civilizations- League of Arab States.
Nourhan Saleh holds a B.A in English Literature from the faculty of Arts, Cairo University.
She joined the department of the Dialogue of Civilizations in 2008; since then she has
been in charge of several cross-cultural projects in the fields of Youth and Education.
Among her responsibilities is the local coordination of the UNAoC Fellowship Program,
which is organized annually with different regional and international partners. In the
field of Education, Nourhan is in charge of one of the files dealing with education and
intercultural dialogue.
Nourhan believes in the important role of “dialogue” in bridging the gaps among
different societies and cultures, through such important parameters like youth,
education, and media.

OMAR GRECH
Director of the International Office, University of Malta and Lecturer in International
Law. Educated at De La Salle College, GF Abela Upper Lyceum and the University of
Malta.
Between 1999 and 2000 worked as an associate with John Mamo & Associates, one of
Malta’s leading law firms. Admitted to the Maltese Bar in March 2000. Since
September 2001 Coordinator of the Human Dimension Programme at MEDAC and
lecturer in International Law at the same institution. Other responsibilities at MEDAC
include the organisation of annual Human Rights
Summer Schools as well human rights seminars and conferences. Latest events
organised include Seminar on Malta and Development Policy, January 2005 (For which a
workshop report has been published), the Summer School on Human Rights and
Development: Education Perspectives, July 2005 and a Seminar on Women’s Rights in
the Mediterranean: Current Issues in February 2006.
Wrote dissertations on The Law of Investor Protection (Faculty of Law – 1999) and
Obligations Erga Omnes – Trends and Perspectives (MEDAC 2001). Member of the Euro-
Med Human Rights Network (EMHRN) and actively involved in the EMHRN Human
Rights Education Working Group.
Produced and presented 2 series of radio programmes dealing with human rights on the
Voice of Mediterranean Radio Station. Also contributor to various Voices of the
Mediterranean Current Affairs Programmes. Dr. Grech also wrote a booklet
published by MEDAC together with 80:20 that is entitled A Human Rights Perspective on
Development. Major areas of interest are International Criminal Law, Human Rights
Education and Women’s Rights.

PASSANT MAHMOUD
Hello, My name is Passant Mahmoud, I am an Egyptian master degree student in
political sciences – international relations. I am so interested in political sciences,
international relations, intercultural dialogue, peace and conflict studies and
communications. I am currently communication officer in Greenpeace arab world and a
media assistant intern in Oxfam GB cairo office. I took courses on "International
Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law in Peace Support Operations” organized by The Cairo Regional Center for Training in Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA) in collaboration with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo Italy and the United Nations United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and another course on Conflicts analysis in United States institute of Peace. I was intern in the league of arab states twice, as a political researcher, I am also a political researcher in a Turkish think tank called strategic outlook and they publish the papers in todays zaman newspaper. I am volunteer in AFS (American field service), UFUK (Turkish Egyptian dialogue forum) I participated in a writing contest held by UNESCO about conflicts resolution in Africa.

PAULA GALEA
Paula Galea is 21 years old and is currently reading a BA in European Studies (Hons) with Contemporary Mediterranean Studies. She is working as a trainee with the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the summer as part of the University of Malta Student Council’s traineeship programme.

RACHEL STEINBERG
From the US.

SARA BENNINGA
I was born in Jerusalem (1982) to immigrant parents from the U.S. and Holland, who came to Israel in the 70's. I am an activist, PhD student and artist living in West Jerusalem, Israel. I have a B.A. in art history and literature from the Tel-Aviv University and a M.A. in art history from the Hebrew University, as well as a BFA from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design. After studying abroad for a year in Freiburg, Germany, I came back to Israel and started to get involved in activism (a few years ago). I joined a group called Ta’ayush, who escort farmers and shepherds in the South Mount Hebron area. After that I was (and still am) involved in the struggle in the East-Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, and in the foundation of a movement called "Solidarity Sheikh Jarrah" (known today as "Solidarity"). Through this work I have been involved in other struggles in East Jerusalem and have learned a lot about the Israeli occupation (it may sound astonishing, but many Israelis do not know much about the occupation and its mechanisms), as well as about the struggle for civil equality in Israel.

SEHIY KULCHEVYCH
Sergii received his MA degree in philosophy at the International Solomon University in Kiev, Ukraine. In 2006-2007, he studied at Paideia (Emmanuel Levinas Paideia Fellowship), the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden, and now serves on the Alumni Association Board. Now, Sergii works in the International Department of the Anne Frank House, serving as a liaison between Anne Frank House Ukraine, Russia. Sergii organizes projects for the Anne Frank House to promote tolerance and inclusive societies in post-Soviet states, namely Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia by providing trainings and support with published materials on this topic. Currently he is leading the
project “Tolerance and human rights education in Russia” which includes work with the travelling exhibition "Anne Frank - A History for Today" and Free2Choose project also development of the innovative teaching materials for teachers on this topic.

SEVDA DAG
Merhaba, Silav, Hi!!
This is Sevda Dağ from Turkey. I’m 23 y. I’m originally Kurdish and graduated from Political Science and Public Administration Department. I’m an idealist and on my way to discover myself in everyday. I was represent of my department 2 years and also was active and board member in Pamukkale University Debate club. I spent 2 semester in Czech Republic as Erasmus student. During this period, I had chance to visit many European countries and see a lot of people, ethnics, cultures, belief. That made my soul rich and changed some stereotypes on my mind. I worked as intern and employe some companies and government office. I’m currently active member in Denizli City Council; Youth Assembly. I’m activist for Youth. My last work was as intern in Ministry for EU Affairs-Turkish National Agency. I have long way to tell I’m Human Rights fighter but at least I’m trying to make myself active with Projects, Ngo, Conferences and voluntary works. Because of the some situation in Turkey, I got far away from Politic problems but when I attended UNAOC Summer School in Portugal. I remember again who I’m and what I really want. I higly interested on Human Rights, migration policies and conflicts especially ethnic conflicts. I will do my academic career about them. One of my dreams are: to work in the United Nations, to solve terror problem and bring the peace all around the world as much as I can do during my life and to make my projects as soon as possible to help people. I want to remind everyone; We all are just a human. Free and equal. Just let differences make you rich and open your heart to hug all people around the world. Stay in peace!!

SHAHD HAMMOURI
Concerning my education, I graduated from High school this year, speaking as the Valedictorian and achieving an average of 94 out of 100, and I am now heading towards law school. Concerning my work, I worked with diverse organizations including my current work with the Jordan youth innovation forum on youth and volunteering projects since an early age, I was a part of national and international conferences and training courses concerning human rights including MUNs as well, I was a TEDx Youth Amman speaker, I spoke of philosophy and human rights, and I am active in local social events. Concerning my personality, I find myself keenly interested in philosophy, anthology and cultures, I have a passion for people, moreover I simply love networking and meeting all diversities, another passion of mine is painted art, I myself am a modest oil painter. With many thoughts swarming through my mind I took up writing in a blog as a way to make sure these thoughts don’t get away.
SLIM BEN ELHAIJ
Slim Ben Elhaj is 21 years old, a Tunisian student engineer, living in Sfax, the capital of Southern Tunisia. He co-founded with his friends a local chapter of a Tunisian NGO "Conscience Politique". Slim is passionate about travelling, meeting new people and sharing ideas with others. He is also a big fan of satirical animated series.

SOUKAINA CHAKKOUR
From Morocco.

SOUMIA ALLOUI
Soumia Alloui (Algeria) is Journalist, Reporter and TV News presenter working for the State run Arabic language, Algerian TV for the past Ten years. After being an Anchor for several years, now she also preparing and presenting a Scientific Magazine which aim at drawing the attention on all the scientific research in Algeria and its problems. Soumia is responsible of the editing as well as the completion of documentaries on political topics, national and international issues. Much of her work is focused on youth and human rights issues. She has been working on sensitive stories. It is for this reason that Soumia works very close with youth organizations in Algeria including the Scout organization, which enables her to work closely on issues on the ground and relate them in her media work. Soumia is also member of Euro-Mediterranean Accademy for Young Journalists ( EMAJ ), which is an non Gouvernemental Organization registered in Sweden and Journalist for EMAJ Magazine, available in English on line. The magazine is a result of positive intercultural dialogues which aim to correct misunderstanding and prejudice for a better world, as well as being foundung member of the Circle of Women Journalists in Algeria. Soumia has taken part to the fall 2011UNAOC Fellowship Programme, and others UNAOC’s programs, including “Breaking out Stereotypes and misconceptions to build bridges among peoples and communities” in Malta, she is also International Jury of the UNAOC Plural program, a youth video festival. Soumia is completing her Master thesis in Science of Information and Communication from Algiers's University.

STEPHEN C. CALLEYA
Director of MEDAC and Lecturer in Int. Relations. Prof. Stephen C. Calleya is Director and International Relations senior lecturer at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies at the University of Malta. He is also an advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta with the status of Ambassador. Prof. Calleya is author of Navigating Regional Dynamics in the Post-Cold War World, Patterns of Relations in the Mediterranean Area, published by Dartmouth in 1997. He also edited a book entitled Regionalism in the Post-Cold War World, published by Ashgate, March 2000. He also published a book entitled Looking Ahead, Malta’s Foreign Policy Agenda, published by Miller Publishing in 2002. His latest book Evaluating Euro-

Prof. Calleya has been Project Manager since 1996 of the Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminars for Diplomats that is funded by the European Union as is an official confidence building mechanism of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. He is also Mediterranean Editor of the journal Mediterranean Politics published by Frank Cass, London and Associate Editor of the journal GlobalNetworks, published by Blackwell, Oxford. He is also a Visiting Professor at Centre for European Integration Studies, (ZEI), University of Bonn and a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCo). As a guest analyst he has participated in numerous interviews including regular contributions to the BBC World Service.

TAHIR SAKHI

My name is Tahir Sakhi and I am a 25 years old Afghan man with tremendous enthusiasm in pursuing learning and serving my nation. I have nearly five years of professional work experience with various national and international NGOs and agencies of the United Nations in Afghanistan. In 2008 initiated working on youth network under Institution for youth Empowerment as a volunteer in Herat where I sought to increase our young generation’s awareness of democracy, peace-building and their role in positive social and political change. I joined the Afghan Youth Parliament and through this organization, I started my professional working career. After four years of hard work, I obtained my Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Economics, with a specialization in Business Management.

While attending International events and training in Turkey, Portugal and Qatar and several national events I had the opportunity to network with like-minded young people from around the globe. I also had the opportunity to raise awareness about the conflict in Afghanistan and the impact it has on today’s generation of young people.

TAREQ DARDONA

My name is Tareq Dardona, 20 years old, from Palestine. I’m studying Communications and Electronics Engineering in Alexandria, Egypt. Besides volunteering in many youth programs in my town, every year I try hard to get involved in international youth forums that include educational programs. In August 2010, I got the chance to be part of what I called “once in a lifetime experience”, the 1st UNAoc summer school in Aveiro, Portugal. Thereafter, I started chasing opportunities like this one. In July 2012, I participated in the International Youth Forum Seliger 2012, in Russia. I am very excited and grateful that now I got the chance to participate in the special summer school in Malta.
Talking about peace, for me as a Palestinian, is one of my interests, and listening to other’s point of view about peace would open up my mind.

TINA MADUNIC

Born in Split, Croatia, on 04.10.1984. I have gained a master degree in pedagogy and linguistics at University of Zagreb in 2008. After that my working experience is related to education; I have worked as a pedagogue (consultant) in a kindergarten and in a high school. I have also participated in many forms of non-formal education; seminars and youth forums in Croatia and abroad and was a leader of international work camps. As a volunteer, I participated in many activities and projects.

In 2010 I have been enrolled in IMEC; International Master in Early Childhood Education and Care (cooperation between Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (Norway), University of Malta (Malta), and Dublin Institute of Technology (Ireland) and I will gain a degree in November this year. I was a part of an international group of people which has given me many different perspectives, especially on educational systems across the globe and has enriched me.

VINCE CARUANA

Born and raised in the Maltese Islands, small but yet rich in its 7000 years of intriguing history gave Vince Caruana an appreciation for an eclectic culture from an early age. His artistic works reflects a marriage of characteristics, styles and aesthetics of the islands’ identity – the megalithic temples, the narrow meandering streets of the towns, the Renaissance cathedrals, the Baroque churches – with a contemporary sensuality. Caruana studied art at the Malta Schools of Art, Scranton College of Arts Pennsylvania and earned a Masters in Visual Arts from the Libera Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze. He has mounted several solo exhibitions and has participated in numerous collectives both locally and abroad. Some major international collectives include Madiera International Arte Bienal (Portugal), Museo Casa da Luz (Portugal), Tempra Accademy (Connecticut, USA), Akademie Klausenhof of Hamminken (Germany), Culturel Christiane Peugeot (Paris), Galerie Adam & Eve (Paris), Loggia del Grano and the Quarter both in Florence. He has been the artist-in-residence of some major 5 star resorts on the island including Mgarr Hotel, Grand Hotel and the Kempinski San Lawrenz Resort. Currently he is the artist in residence of Maji Wine & Dine. His winning-paintings have earned him distinctive awards namely the Malta Biennial: Tribute to CHOGM, Malta, a Special Distinction Award: Connecticut, USA, the President’s Special Award: Madiera International Arte Bienal, Portugal and the Palma D’Oro Award: Italy. Additionally, Caruana has realized some distinctive artworks comprising the Grand Hotel conference hall 6’’ x 12’’ mural, the GCAC conference hall mural 4’’ x 6’’ mural, the Ghajnsielem Civic Centre conference hall 4’’ x 11’’ mural, a set of paintings for the archives of St. Jospeh Band Club, a memento to the ex-President of Malta Dr. Edward Fenech Adami, and a memento to Alejandro Amenabar (Madrid), the director of several films. Caruana has been recognized as the first artist to introduce lenticular artworks to the Maltese Islands with his exhibits being mounted at the Natural Museum of History at
Mdina. Last year the artist carved his name in the history of church bells in Malta. He was in charge of the frontal bronze reliefs and accompanying wreaths of eight bells for the Ghajnsielem Sanctuary. This four-year long €600,000 project was founded in Cornille Havard bronze foundry, France.

ZEINA BESAHRA KAZAK
My name is Zeina Beshara Kazak, I was born in Saudi Arabia to a brother and a sister. I stayed there until I was eight and then moved to Lebanon with my mother and siblings. I graduated high school from Mouseitbeh Adventist Secondary School. I have a BA in English Language and Literature with a minor in psychology from Beirut Arab University (BAU). I am currently continuing my Teaching Diploma at the American University of Beirut. As for work; I have worked for six months in a day care center and have been teaching English in middle school for a year at Beirut Baptist School. I was a scouts’ leader in The Lebanese Scouts Association for four years, a volunteer at the Human Rights Center at BAU for 3 years and a volunteer for a year at the NGO Adyan. I have also participated in a “Conflict Transformation” project with an NGO called ALEF in association with the Human Rights Center at BAU.

WALEED RASHED
Waleed Rashed (Arabic: وْلِيْد رَأْشَد; IPA: [wæˈliːd ˈɾɑːʃed]; studying for Master in Political Science / Global Affairs, born November 15, 1983 in El Sharkia, Egypt) is one of the co-founders of the April 6 Youth Movement and a prominent participant in the anti-Mubarak demonstrations in Egypt in 2011.

Rashed was a banker in UAE & Qatar from 2007-2011. He has completed his 2004 B.A. Faculty of Commerce from Accounting Department, Banha University, Egypt, and is currently doing his Master in Political Science.

Activity & 2011 Egyptian revolution: One of the founders of the non-violent April 6 Youth Movement, which called for massive demonstrations on Police Day, January 25, 2011 and together with other youth movements, organized the 18-day peaceful uprising that culminated in President Hosni Mubarak’s departure on February 11, 2011. / the April 6 Youth Movement, an Egyptian Facebook group that started in 2008 to support workers in an industrial town who were planning to strike on April 6. The page quickly acquired more than 70,000 followers. The activists used blogs, social media and text messaging to spread the word about their planned activities. The April 6 Movement grew to become one of the most important organizers of the peaceful uprising that culminated in President Mubarak’s departure in 2011. The movement stresses non-violent means to bring young Egyptians together for the goal of political change. Today, it continues to lobby for the change to a Democratic regime.

• The Movement was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2011
• He organized the April 6 Youth Movement protest in Alexandria where 14 members of the movement were arrested in July 2008
• Between 2005-2008 he was a member of the pro-democracy Kefaya movement, also known as the Egyptian Movement for Change.

• In 2009/2010, while working in Qatar, he was the coordinator of the National Association of Change and organized Egyptians in the area to support the change of the Egyptian regime.

In the words of Waleed Rashed, of the April 6th Youth Movement that helped organize the 25 January protests, ‘Tunis is the force that pushed Egypt, but what Egypt did will be the force that will push the world.

WIEM MELKI

Wiem Melki holds a bachelor degree in Linguistics. She is currently a 24 year old journalist at Tunisia-live, first Tunisian news website in English. She has been involved in civil society for 3 years now as a member of several NGOs, founder of others such as Volunteering Students, Lions Club Pioneers, NSS English club and Culture for Citizenship. She is currently the vice president of United Women for Peace. She is a young leadership trainer training youth about leadership, public speaking and citizenship. She has been involved in several development projects such as Youth project and Access Leadership Training in Tunisia as well as Show Your Impact project in Turkey. She was part of the Tunisian Model UN conference in Tunis twice. She participated in different trainings and exchange programs in the US, Germany and Turkey. She is interested in Peace, Women issues, Media, International Relations, Human Development, Human rights and Social Entrepreneurship.
MALTA

Year of EU entry: 2004
Member of Schengen area: Yes
Political system: Republic
Capital city: Valletta
Total area: 316 km²
Population: 0.4 million
Currency: euro
Listen to the official EU languages: Maltese, English

Malta is a group of seven islands in the Mediterranean Sea. Only the three largest islands - Malta, Gozo and Comino - are inhabited. The terrain is low and rocky with coastal cliffs.

Malta, in the heart of the Mediterranean, is a melting pot of civilisations with a history stretching back thousands of years. The country has been inhabited since around 5200 BC and a significant prehistoric civilisation existed on the islands prior to the arrival of the Phoenicians who named the main island Malat, meaning safe haven. Later the islands were for centuries the seat of the Order of Knights of the Hospital of St John and then part of the British Empire. Malta became independent in 1964.

The Maltese government is headed by the leader of the party with a majority of seats in the unicameral House of Representatives, known in Maltese as Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti.

The national language is Maltese, which is part of the Semitic language family that includes Arabic. English is also recognised as an official language, and many Maltese also speak Italian.

Tourism is important in Malta but the island also has an expanding services sector.

Traditional Maltese food includes soup (minestrone, fish), pasta and pastry dishes. Stuffed dishes are also a feature of Maltese cuisine. Stuffat Tal-Fenek(rabbit stew) is a national dish.
BASIC FACTS ABOUT MALTA

- **Full name**: Republic of Malta
- **Population**: 418,000 (UN, 2011)
- **Capital**: Valletta
- **Area**: 316 sq km (122 sq miles)
- **Major languages**: Maltese, English
- **Major religion**: Christianity
- **Life expectancy**: 78 years (men), 82 years (women) (UN)
- **Monetary unit**: Euro from 1 January 2008
- **Main exports**: Machinery and transport equipment
- **GNI per capita**: US $19,270 (World Bank, 2010)
- **Internet domain**: .mt
- **International dialling code**: +356

LA VALETTA, CAPITAL OF MALTA

(from the official website of the Valetta local council administration)

Europe’s Smallest Capital City in the Heart of the deep Blue Mediterranean Sea, Valletta is a Dynamic City which has never ceased to change and move forward, retaining its original beauty and splendor.

Valletta is the designer city of the 16th Century built straight from the drawing-board of three men, a Political Leader and Head of the Order of the Knights, Jean Parisot de la Valette, a warrior engineer Francesco Laparelli, and a Maltese Architect, Girolamo Cassar. Valletta is one of Europe’s most sophisticated micro cities with an intense concentration of baroque architecture and a defense line of Fortifications that is second to non.

Valletta and its Harbours have always responded to the dynamics of time and change. From a Maritime SuperCity of the 17th Century Valletta developed into a Cultural and Commercial Hub in the 18th Century, becoming yet again the strongest Naval Base in the Mediterranean during the 19th and mid-20th Century.

Valletta and its harbours developed from a Port of War to a Port of Peace and from a Port of Heavy Industry to a Port of Culture and Tourism. Valletta is considered to be one of the finest harbours in the World and a unique experience to all seafarers and passengers sailing on the luxury yachts and liners.
Valletta is a city rich in cultural tradition. Compared to other older cities in Europe, Valletta is only 440 Years young, yet it has the stature, history and profile similar to its sister Capitals of Europe, proud of being a World Heritage City.

Valletta, Malta’s capital and a World Heritage site, is nothing short of an open-air museum. It is a living experience of Baroque architecture, a monument donated by the Knights of St John nearly five centuries ago. Throughout the years, Valletta has welcomed emperors, heads of state, artists and poets and is now the permanent seat of the Maltese government.

Dotted with quaint cafés and wine bars, the city is today one of Malta’s main tourist attractions, hosting among others, the majestic St John’s Co-Cathedral, the imposing bastions and a treasure of priceless paintings. It also provides a stunning snapshot of Malta’s Grand Harbour, often described as the most beautiful in the Mediterranean.

The city’s unique setting nowadays plays host to a series of cultural events, from theatre in English, to concerts by leading opera singers.

A hive of business activity during the day, the city switches to a slower gear for the night. Use it to your advantage to get away from the noise and take a stroll to admire the magic of the fortified capital amplified by the gentle lighting. Admire the bastion walls, the dense clusters of worn limestone buildings, the timber balconies, and imposing Churches.

HISTORY OF LA VALETTA

(from the official website of the Valetta local council administration)

Old map of Valetta

Valletta owes its existence to the Knights of St John, who planned the city as a refuge to care for injured soldiers and pilgrims during the Crusades in the 16th century. Until the
arrival of the Knights, Mount Sceberras, on which Valletta stands, lying between two natural harbours, was an arid tongue of land.

No building stood on its bare rocks except for a small watch tower, called St Elmo, to be found at its extreme end. Grand Master La Valette, the gallant hero of the Great Siege of 1565, soon realised that if the Order was to maintain its hold on Malta, it had to provide adequate defences. Therefore, he drew up a plan for a new fortified city on the Sceberras peninsula.

Pope Pius V and Philip II of Spain showed interest in the project. They both promised financial aid and the Pope lent the Knights the services of Francesco Laparelli, a military engineer, who drew up the necessary plans for the new city and its defences. Work started in earnest in March 1566 - first on the bastions and, soon after, on the more important buildings. The new city was to be called Valletta in honour of La Valette.

The Grand Master didn’t live to see its completion and he died in 1568. His successor, Pietro del Monte continued with the work at the same pace. By 1571, the Knights transferred their quarters from Vittoriosa (Birgu) to their new capital. Architect Laparelli left Malta in 1570. He was replaced by his assistant Gerolamo Cassar, who had spent some months in Rome, where he had observed the new style of buildings in the Italian city.

Cassar designed and supervised most of the early buildings, including the Sacra Infermeria, St John’s Church, the Magisterial Palace and the seven Auberges, or Inns of Residence of the Knights.

By the 16th century, Valletta had grown into a sizeable city. People from all parts of the island flocked to live within its safe fortifications especially as Mdina, until then Malta’s capital, lost much of its lure. In the ensuing years, the austere mannerist style of Cassar’s structures gave way to the more lavish palaces and churches with graceful facades and rich sculptural motifs.

The new city, with its strong bastions and deep moats, became a bulwark of great strategic importance. Valletta’s street plan is unique and planned with its defence in mind. Based on a more or less uniform grid, some of the streets fall steeply as you get closer to the tip of the peninsula. The stairs in some of the streets do not conform to normal dimensions since they were constructed in a way so as to allow knights in heavy armour to be able to climb the steps.

Fast forward a few centuries and the city built by gentlemen for gentlemen came under another siege; this time in the shape of World War II which brought havoc to Malta. Valletta was badly battered by the bombing, but the city withstood the terrible blow and, within a few years, it rose again. The scars of the war are still visible till this day at
the site previously occupied by the former Royal Opera House in the heart of the city, a wound that has left Malta’s MPs divided these past 60 years over what should replace it.

During the post-war years, Valletta lost many of its citizens who moved out to more modern houses in other localities and its population dwindled to 9,000 inhabitants. However, in the last few years many individuals with a flair for unique architecture are trickling back into the city and investing in old properties.

Valletta, the smallest capital of the European Union, is now the island’s major commercial and financial centre and is visited daily by throngs of tourists eager to experience the city’s rich history.

**MDINA**

*(From wikipedia)*

Mdina, Città Vecchia, or Città Notabile, (English: Notabile, or Imdina; Phoenician: מליטה, Melitta)\(^1\) is the old capital of Malta. Mdina is a medieval walled town situated on a hill in the centre of the island. Punic remains uncovered beyond the city’s walls suggest the importance of the general region to Malta’s Phoenician settlers. Mdina is commonly called the "Silent City" by natives and visitors.\(^2\) The town is still confined within its walls, and has a population of just over three hundred,\(^3\) but it is contiguous with the village of Rabat, which takes its name from the Arabic word for suburb, and has a population of over 11,000.

**History**

Mdina was inhabited and possibly first fortified by the Phoenicians around 700 BC. The Phoenicians called it Maleth.\(^4\) The region benefits from its strategic location on one of the island’s highest points and at maximum distance from the sea. Under the Roman Empire Malta became a Municipium and the Roman Governor built his palace in Mdina. Tradition holds that the Apostle St. Paul resided in the city after his historical shipwreck on the islands.

The name and the layout of the city reflect the Fatimid Period which began in 870 AD and lasted until the Norman conquest of Malta in 1091 AD. The earliest surviving buildings date from the Norman period. The Normans surrounded the city with thick
defensive fortifications and widened the moat. The city was also separated from its nearest town, Rabat.

Malta passed to the Order of Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in 1530 AD. Mdina hosted the public ceremony in which each Grand Master swore an oath to protect the Maltese Islands and the rights of his subjects. A strong earthquake in 1693 led to the introduction of Baroque design within the city scape. The Knights of Malta rebuilt the cathedral, to the designs of Maltese architect Lorenzo Gafa. Palazzo Falzon, the Magisterial Palace and major restoration works are other projects undertaken by the Knights. The monumental gateway was designed by the French architect and military engineer Charles François de Mondion in 1724. Also, the entrance found today is not the original one, as the original south gate is about 100 meters to the left.

Present

Most of Mdina’s palaces serve as private homes. The impressive Cathedral of the Conversion of St Paul is fronted by a large square. Only a limited number of resident and emergency vehicles, wedding cars and hearses are allowed within Mdina.

16. Background of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

Inspired by the vision that respect among human beings in all diversities of belief, culture and language, and tolerance are fundamental values for building inclusive societies as well as boosting peace and sustainable development, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) operates in four main fields of action: education, youth, media and migration.

The primary mission of the UNAOC is to forge collective political will and to mobilize concerted action aimed at improving cross-cultural understanding and cooperation among countries, peoples and communities. The Alliance focuses its actions on both governmental and civil societal levels. It also works to counter forces that fuel polarization and extremism. The UNAOC’s particular focus is on improving relations within and between Western and Muslim societies and addressing persistent tensions and divides.

In order to deliver on-the-ground joint actions that reflect shared responsibilities, the UNAOC promotes the adoption of Regional Strategies for Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation as the best way to address common challenges. Regional Strategies deglobalize the Alliance’s goals, generate a process of co-ownership involving a wide range of stakeholders and drive collective efforts to address peoples’ needs, reach out to grass-roots organizations and deliver projects on the ground.
In December 2010, Malta hosted the first UNAOC Regional Meeting for the Mediterranean bringing together governments, local authorities, international organizations, civil society, youth, media, the private sector and philanthropies. A Regional Strategy for Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation for the Mediterranean was adopted as a framework for collective action and afterwards an Action Plan was adopted.

The “GUIDO DE MARCO” UNAOC Summer School is part of the Action Plan for the Mediterranean. It represents a blended initiative, combining the successful experience of the UNAOC annual Summer Schools and the inspirational vision of late great Maltese statesman Guido de Marco.

The late President, Guido di Marco, was highly respected all over Europe and his attachment to tolerance, cooperation and friendship was recognized not only in the whole region of the Middle East but also globally because of his unique and exceptional tenure as President of the United Nations General Assembly in 1990-1991.