

**Press Release:**

**Celebrating Diversity**

Musicians and singers from different backgrounds exposing music and musical instruments originating from different cultural backgrounds were the highlights of a Diversity Through Music Concert organised by the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE). Held at Baystreet and targeting youths, this Concert formed part of the *Think Equal* (VS/2010/0569) project, co-financed by European Union Progress Funds.

It is acknowledged that music is one of the most effective and popular means of communication with both youths and the general public. It mirrors diversity as expressed by performers, music styles and instruments from different cultures. Through the diversity of sound, a concept well entrenched in youth culture, youths were especially invited to explore diversity further by being exposed to the cultures from which such musical sounds have evolved.

Compèred by Oz and Jay, the Concert included the Peruvian band Islay, Chinese instruments, the African tribal band Kremangaro, Beat Boxer Dana Mckeeon, as well as Maltese traditional music mixed with rap, folk, Hip Hop and Break Dancing.

The winners of *Think Equal's* 'Equality in Arts Exhibition and Competition and the Photographic Exhibition and Competition' were awarded during the Diversity Through Music Concert. Participants were given award and participation certificates and the respective winners were presented with gift vouchers as a token for their achievement.

Overall, the *Think Equal* project aims at stimulating debate on equality, diversity and multiple discrimination with those who have multiplier effect; enhancing and promoting a shared understanding of equality, non-discrimination, diversity and multiple discrimination; and disseminating good practices and sensitising, training and empowering youths to welcome and live diversity through various activities namely a Seminar for Youths and a Symposium on Multiple Discrimination. Furthermore, the project is concurrently working on the compilation of data through both quantitative and qualitative research studies and on providing data upon which legislation, policy and action plans may be designed.

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2011**