



PRESS RELEASE:

Developing a culture of rights

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) in partnership with two other equality bodies from UKni and Austria, together with four key national stakeholders, Centre for Development, Research and Training (CDRT), General Workers' Union (GWU), Union Haddiema Magħqudin (UHM) and Department for Local Government (DLG), is initiating on Human Rights Day – 10th December - its plan of action which shall include research, internal and external training, as well as awareness raising. This work is aimed at developing a culture of rights by targeting the critical mass within public administration, local councils, NGOs and social partners. This will be implemented as part of a new project ESF4.220 *Developing a Culture of Rights through Capacity Building*.

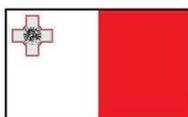
At the opening of a press conference launching this project, NCPE's Executive Director Dr Romina Bartolo, explained how NCPE's original remit was to monitor the law with regard to discrimination on grounds of gender and family responsibilities in employment, education or vocational training and financial services. This legislation was amended in 2012 and it now also covers the grounds of sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, racial or ethnic origin and gender identity in employment, education and financial services. To this end, one core aspect of the project is in facilitating and accelerating the effective implementation of this progress in the national equality legislation.

In an overview of the Project, NCPE's Manager Ms Therese Spiteri explained that internal organisational training in line with NCPE's remit extension shall be organised to accelerate its effective implementation in order to enhance the knowledge and resource capacity on equality and non-discrimination,

Furthermore, external targeted training shall also be delivered. This will include training on equality and non-discrimination offered to clerical grades and local councils; training tele-managers on effective management of staff who are tele-working; training in carrying out equality performance appraisals for staff; and training for NGOs and social partners on all grounds of discrimination. These training sessions are aimed at sensitising and empowering personnel that provide service to the citizens and public at large.

Ms Therese Spiteri highlighted the two research studies which will be carried out, namely research which seeks methods and tools to reach out to target groups especially in sectors related to NCPE's remit extension; and research (through transnational cooperation) to outline various formal and informal working processes that are utilised in different equality bodies in order to implement the respective EU and national obligations.

In order to ensure visibility of the project and to disseminate information about the new remit of NCPE, an information campaign will be launched which will include a social media campaign as well as a radio campaign.



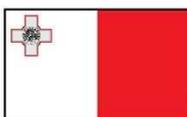
Operational Programme II – Cohesion Policy 2007– 2013
Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life
Project part-financed by the European Union
European Social Fund
Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds





Concluding the press conference, NCPE's Commissioner Ms Renee Laiviera, emphasized the continuous importance of fostering a culture of rights within institutions, among individuals and in society at large. Ms Laiviera reiterated that this project will facilitate the development of this culture of rights through empowerment and practical training. Moreover, the two research studies on both national and transnational level will reinforce NCPE's work processes and thus its capacity to fulfil its remit.

Tuesday 10th December, 2013



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Investing in Your Future



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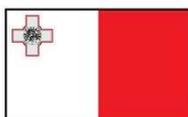
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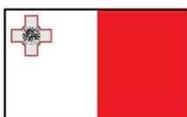
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