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Voluntary Organisation Registration No: 0271

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Annual General Meeting

Administrative Report for the year 2012

During 2011, APF Malta has worked extensively on numerous internal matters. Throughout 2011, new members entered the Executive Committee. I would firstly like to thank each person who provided their service so that APF could continue with its work.

A few months, after a similar meeting which took place last year there were some resignations and the leading committee requested an extraordinary Meeting so as to review the Statute and goals of APF.

After this extraordinary Meeting which took place on the 7th of July, an election for a new members was held. During the meeting, changes in the Statute and changes in how APF would look towards the future were discussed. The ruling of AGM wished that there would be new members in the Executive Committee.

The members present in this new committee are the following:-

Fr Saviour Grima representing Millennium Chapel
Ms Irene Schembri representing Dar Arka Ghawdex
Mr Godwin Callus representing Faith and Justice
Mr Leonid Mckay representing Caritas Malta
Ms Claudia Taylor East representing SOS Malta
Fr Joe Inganez representing Discern
Ms Ruth Brincat representing St Jean Antide Foundation
Mr Holger Saliba representing Richmond Foundation
Ms Robert Vella Bonnici representing “Dar tat-Tfal ejjew ghandi”

During the first meeting of the Exco we discussed what we could do this year. This meeting took place on the 9th of August 2011, and throughout it an election was held to elect the Official Members according to the Statute of APF.

Further to this, a discussion was held about this work and an election took place according to the statute. Thereafter the following were elected and confirmed in their capacities- – Fr Saviour Grima as President, – Ms Roberta Vella Bonnici as Vice-President, - Ms. Irene Schembi as Secretary and – Mr Godwin Callus as Treasurer.

Various meetings were held to explain the work of the APF network and its purpose, due to the fact that there were many new Exco members. Many meetings took place during which we defined what is poverty and the risk of poverty in our country; as well as how Europe defines poverty and how this is defined by APF.

Meetings attended by members of APF

Many meetings were held nearly every month, during which the board met and discussed several themes and the various correspondences APF received.

Some members of the APF attended various meetings both locally and abroad. Among these were the following meetings and seminar:- Meusac, Year of Volunteering, meetings for 2020 strategy, meetings about the Year of Aging People and a meeting organised by the Third World Group with the theme Shouting Against Poverty.

Apart from the above meetings, members of the APF attended various meetings organised abroad by EAPN.

Financial Report

Throughout these last months we felt the need to utilise a new Accounting system : Mr Godwin Callus took the initiative to make this reform and gathered all the necessary information with regards to the APF's accounts . We have also began to use internet banking to facilitate viewing our funds and finding ways for us to work better. A new list of each group member of APF was created showing the annual fee which each of these groups pays.

Interviews and articles appearing in the local printed media

Various members of the APF forum gave their comments to the media regarding poverty in our country throughout the last few months. An article written by Ruth has been printed in The Times on the day dedicated to Poverty and Exclusion, various interviews were also carried out the local media.

Translation of the PEP documents

Maltese members also attended the People experience poverty meeting which took place in Brussels this year. This year, it was Mr Paul Haber representing Caritas Malta who attended.

Each year a meeting of people suffering from poverty is organised. Each year member nations of the European Union are requested to prepare three people suffering from poverty to travel with them and attend this meeting. This is an occasion for these people to participate by talking about their experiences and meeting and talking to other people.

As with all these type of meetings, a document is issued with regards to all the themes discussed and all that took place in these meetings. This year a translation of this document was also made. The EAPN was responsible for the payment made to the secretary Irene Schembri for the Maltese translation of this document.

The visit made by Mr F. Fintan Farrell, which took place on Friday November 18th

Mr. Fintan Farrell spoke about how we should view APF and the work it carries out in Europe.

We spoke about poverty in Europe as well as how APF is working with several stakeholders with regards to this matter which is impinging on the EU and all European nations in this time of economic crisis. After the meeting Mr Fintan Farrell visited 3 of our organization, that are members of the APF Malta, which are :

- the “ Dar Leopoldo” a home that cater for homeless people and give them programs to regenerate their life again.
- ARKA – a home that caters for Disable person, and a helping hand for some families who have their children who are disable and give them support
- Millennium Chapel- and WOW(Wishing others Well)

This meeting was open to all members of the APF network.

Problems with the contract

As many members were admitted after August 2011, we had some difficulties in the creation of the contract which was signed in January 2011. In the month of November, a small group of members came up with the idea of a meeting in the Maltese Parliament, in the Social Committee section chaired by Mr. Edwin Vassallo. I spoke to Mr. Vassallo several times and he requested that I send him a letter. This letter was sent by the Social Committee, but we are as yet without a reply due to the issues currently occurring in the Maltese Parliament. The idea is that those Maltese who represented our nation in the PEP (“People Experience Poverty”) would themselves speak about their own experience and that APF Malta would also have some moments of reflection, where we would talk about our work in favour of those suffering from or at risk of poverty.

For this meeting the Minister of Education and various Members of Parliament would also be invited.

The new email system

The problem with email: lately we have had a problem with the email service and APF wished to change its service provider as we were paying €70 per year and the committee agreed that I should try to find another less costly service provider.

The Year of Volunteering

2011 was a year when Europe paused to give importance to the sector of Voluntary Work. This year, the Year of Volunteering encouraged many people to engage in the sector of volunteering. I attended various meetings organised this year for the Year of Volunteering and I also attended during the end of year event which took place in Valletta.

The year 2012

2012 is the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. This is an opportunity we should all take to reflect upon how Europeans are now more than ever before, living better and keeping healthier; and for us to realize the opportunities which this represents.

Active Ageing may give the baby boomers generation and aged people the opportunity to:-

- **remain in employment and to share their experience**
- **maintain an active role in society**
- **live as much as possible healthy and satisfying life**

I attended for the opening of this meeting and it is my wish that this year we try to work more in this sector, where aged people are also finding some difficulties in this area. We would like more seminars to take place and a study on how we can work more with other networks.

As you can see we have worked from the heart despite many sacrifices, hindrances and difficult circumstances when we sometimes felt discouraged. However we have another year ahead of us, where we have a lot of work to be done. This is not enough for us. Our purpose is that this year bears its fruit to those suffering from poverty.

We also wish to have a clear vision, with clear plans so as to attract further members who can actively participate.

I cannot close my speech before strongly giving my thanks to each member of this Executive Committee for all the work they have carried out and all the support they have given me whenever I needed their assistance.

Fr Saviour Grima
Chairman