



c/o Richmond Foundation, 424, St. Joseph High Road, St. Venera, SVR 1013, Malta

E-mail address: apfmalta@gmail.com

Voluntary Organisation Registration No: 0271

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

During this year, together as the Executive Committee, we strived hard to continue our fight against poverty and social exclusion by raising awareness on various issues of poverty through media interviews, radio programmes, press statements and also through the organisation of the annual conference. We worked on various reports requested by EAPN including the Poverty Watch report and also completed a questionnaire on the poverty situation in Malta, also requested by EAPN.

During 2019, APF Malta held 11 Executive Committee meetings and 1 Annual General Meeting. During the ExCo meetings various issues were discussed which will be briefly outlined in the report below.

- As agreed during the first ExCo meeting following the last AGM, a statute amendment sub-committee was set-up. The sub-committee was responsible for updating the Statute. Members of the sub-committee met a number of times and the amendments are now complete and are being presented for approval by this AGM. Following this, the original Statute will be updated with all the amendments agreed upon, and an updated version will be forwarded to the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations.
- During the first ExCo meeting, the Committee agreed to give the observer status (as per Statute Clause 9.2) to Saviour Grima who had served as Chairperson of the Forum for a number of years. Originally, Mr. Grima was representing 6PM Foundation in the Forum, however this organisation was dissolved and to this extent Mr. Grima could not form part of the committee any longer. Also, following the resignation of Fr. Joe Inguanez from DISCERN, ExCo agreed to give Fr. Inguanez the observer status. It was agreed that both Mr. Grima and Fr. Inguanez will be asked to attend any ExCo meetings which the Committee deems necessary, to share their expertise on particular issues.
- Following the resignation of Fr. Inguanez, Mr. Andre Bonello was appointed as the EU Inclusion Strategies Group (EU ISG) representative for APF Malta. The EU ISG within EAPN, provides mutual support to National Networks for the development of National Strategies and plans, to fight poverty. It also engages with EU Institutions to see to what extent they can be used to support the implementation of such strategies. The Group assesses the strengths and weaknesses of these EU strategies and policies.

- As Chairperson of the Forum, I attended all the EAPN Executive Committee meetings, during which a number of issues were discussed, such as the national networks membership fees, Brexit and its' repercussions, how to reduce on EAPN costs, etc.
- The former Director of Fondazzjoni Sebħ informed APF Malta that he had resigned from the Foundation. APF Malta made contact with the new Director – Ms Yvonne Mallia. Ms Mallia was briefed on APF Malta's ongoing work and mission. She agreed that the Foundation should form part of APF Malta. Ms Mallia assigned Ms Catherine Fleri Soler as Fondazzjoni Sebħ's representative to this Forum.
- APF Malta teamed up with one of its' member organisations – Alleanza Kontra l-Faqar – to work on a Living Income campaign. The Executive Committee held a half-day round table forum in Gozo, with Alleanza Kontra l-Faqar's members to be briefed on the aims of this campaign and the living income concept. Alleanza Kontra l-Faqar is still working on this campaign and Anti-Poverty Forum is being kept informed of all the updates.
- ExCo decided to form part of the 'Housing for all' citizens' initiative. This initiative is being led by one of the Forum's member organisations – SOS Malta. Following a meeting with SOS Malta's Director, Ms. Claudia Taylor East, APF Malta is now on board together with 20 other local organisations. The aim of this initiative is to bring about a better legal and financial framework conditions to facilitate access to housing for everyone in Europe. As part of this initiative we are to collect 4,500 signatures. Everyone is encouraged to sign the petition online through this link <https://www.housingforall.eu/mt/support-the-campaign-and-sign-the-petition-mt/>
- The EAPN General Assembly was held in Finland in September 2019, where the Maltese delegation was made up of the Mr. Andre Bonello as Seceretary APF- Malta, Fr. Joe Inguanez as member and myself as chair APF Malta. During this meeting I participated in the EAPN ExCo meeting. Simultaneously Andre Bonello participated in the EUISG meeting whilst Fr Joe Inguanez attended the Capacity Building Meeting. Following these meetings, the Maltese delegation attended the EAPN General Assembly.
- Following a call, sent to all member organisations to nominate persons to form part of the 2019 People Experiencing Poverty (PEP) Meeting delegation, two (2) nominations were received from St. Jeanne Antide Foundation. The nominees were interviewed by Andre Bonello and Charlot Cauchi and it was agreed that they were to form part of the delegation. To this extent, the PEP delegation was composed of Andre Bonello (leading), Charlot Cauchi (co-leading), Sharon & Shakira. The PEP Meeting was held in Brussels between the 17th and 19th of November 2019.
- APF Malta held its' annual conference on the 3rd of December with the title 'Progress and Poverty'. The main speakers were sociologist Rev. Dr. Joe Inguanez and economist Prof. Emanuel Delia. The conference was held at The Meeting Place in Marsa and was well-

attended. Unfortunately, due to the political turmoil in the country at the time, the media did not cover the event.

- During 2019, APF Malta continued with its' monthly radio programmes. Until July 2019, APF Malta had a regular 1-hour slot on RTK Radio with Christine Delicata. Since this radio station changed its' style and is now a music station, discussions for a possible similar slot were held with Radju Malta's presenter Tonio Bonello. This proposal was positively accepted and APF Malta started having a 1-hour slot every month with Tonio Bonello, who presents Il-Polz tac-Cittaddin on Radju Malta. This APF Malta programme started in October 2019.
- APF Malta is a member of the Civil Society Committee (CSC) within the MCESD, represented by Fr Edgar Busuttil. Fr Busuttil informed APF Malta that throughout his term he did his very best to attend CSC meetings and to actively participate in them. Through his initiative, two meetings were organised on Education and poverty. For these meetings, Fr Busuttil presented two documents. He was also part of the delegation of the CSC who met the Prime Minister and presented this topic to him on behalf of the Committee. Fr Busuttil also put forward APF Malta's Budget proposals which were added to others' proposals and presented to the Minister of Finance. The current term of the Civil Society Committee is coming to an end. APF Malta applied to be part of this Committee again. Since Fr Busuttil is not in a position to continue with his work in this committee, ExCo nominated Fr Ivan Attard as the new representative. Andre Bonello will be Fr. Attard's substitute. MCESD is to call for an election for this committee in the coming days.
- The European Commission organised a conference in Malta on minimum income. APF Malta was invited to give a presentation on minimum income vis a vis the working environment. We gave a 10-minute presentation on *'Perspectives on Maltese policies and practices to support the labour market participation on minimum income beneficiaries'*.
- APF Malta ExCo held a meeting with MEP Hon. Dr. Josanne Cutajar in January 2020. This was a very fruitful meeting which concluded that whilst giving importance to the economy it is also essential to put emphasis on the social economy.
- Following the issue that Identity Malta refused a residence permit to a number of non-EU children in Malta, whose parents already live and work here, APF Malta issued a Press Statement, indicating the psychological and emotional stress this can result in. The Statement was published on The Times of Malta.
- During 2019, APF Malta applied for the EAPN funding scheme to cover costs incurred for the organisation of the annual conference, and also for translation work of an EAPN document

into Maltese. The returns for these funds were submitted earlier this year, and APF Malta is waiting to be re-imbursed according to the contract signed.

- APF Malta forwarded all the necessary documents to the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Sector to be compliant with the Voluntary Organisations Act. A formal communication noted that APF Malta is now compliant up to 2018.