



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the operative year from January 1 to December 31, 2017

### PREAMBLE

The following report covers the Foundation's year of operation between January 1 and December 31 of 2017. For future references, the following are the Foundation's ID registrations:

- **NGO number:** VO/0679
- **VAT number:** 2402-3105
- **Income Tax number:** 920018637
- **Employer:** 350702
- **Juridical Person number:** LPF-85
- **Official address:** Philosophy Sharing, 129, St Paul's Street, Valletta VLT1216
- **Date of initiation:** 12 May 2012

### RESTRUCTURING

A restructuring exercise of the Foundation was made in the second half of the year aiming to take the Foundation to a new level of operation by developing it from an activity-based to a member-based organisation. Since its establishment in 2012, the Foundation has mostly concentrated on organising public activities assuring itself of their (1) quality and (2) consistency. The activities mainly consisted of (1) public talks, (2) short courses and (3) a tri-annual magazine. These were held in Malta and Gozo except for the courses, which were offered only in Malta. Though the Foundation consistently had a number of members, these were generally not included in decision making processes, which were exclusively confined to separate Steering Teams in Malta and Gozo. Though useful to the launching and stabilisation of the Foundation within the local public educational sphere, this structure kept its members structurally marginalised, and hampered recruitment due to lack of membership incentives and benefits. The structural change will enhance members' strategic importance by placing them at the very centre of the organisation's operations.

Following the restructuring exercise, a renewed version of the Statute was drawn up and approval by the respective AGMs of Malta and Gozo (attached to this report).

Consequently, this will be the last time that this report will be submitted on behalf of both the Foundation's branches, namely of Malta and Gozo, combined together. As from the next report, each branch will submit its own report.

### STEERING COMMITTEES

#### • IN MALTA

At the year's beginning the Steering Committee was made up of: Max Cassar (Chair), Andrea Axisa, Franz-Henry Cauci, Ian Rizzo, Ivan Attard (Treasurer), Kevin Saliba, Mario Sciberras, Mark Montebello (Secretary) and Paul Salnitro. During the year Andrea Axisa relinquished his seat due to studies abroad, and Cynthia Amato and Luke Scicluna were co-opted. The Steering Committee meetings were held at the Volunteer Centre, Melita Street, Valletta. The minutes are available for public scrutiny. The committee met eleven (11) times throughout the year, namely on the following days:

No. 56	January 18	No. 59	April 12	No. 62	August 9	No. 65	November 11
No. 57	February 1	No. 60	May 10	No. 63	September 20	No. 66	December 17
No. 58	March 15	No. 61	June 14	No. 64	October 11		

#### • IN GOZO

At the year's beginning the Steering Committee was provisionally made up of: Marta Oblios Fornell (Chair), Grace Vella Refalo, Louise Sultana (Secretary), Marc Delannoy (Treasurer), Manuel Xuereb, Diana Gomez, and Frank Masini Vento. During the year Oliver Magro was enlisted. The Steering Committee meetings were held at public places in Victoria. The minutes are available for public scrutiny. The committee met twelve (12) times throughout the year, namely on the following days:

No. 1	February 18	No. 4	April 22	No. 7	July 22	No. 10	October 21
No. 2	February 28	No. 5	May 20	No. 8	August 19	No. 11	November 17
No. 3	March 18	No. 6	June 17	No. 9	September 16	No. 12	December 16

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Throughout the year the Foundation organised ten (10) public philosophy discussion meetings in Malta, and seven (7) in Gozo. The meetings in Malta were generally held at the Valletta Voluntary Centre in Melita Street, and those in Gozo were all held at the Circolo Gozitano at Rabat. While seven (7) of the ten (10) talks in Malta were in English (the rest being in Maltese), all the talks in Gozo were in English since foreign residents attend. All meetings were held in the evening. They were addressed by a main speaker and followed by an open discussion.

The following are the dates of the meetings, the speakers and the themes of the philosophical talks and discussion:

#### IN MALTA:

No. 53	February 1	Dr Mark Montebello	<i>Alla mejjet?</i>
No. 54	April 5	Ian Rizzo	<i>The philosophy of naturism</i>
No. 55	May 3	Dr Francoise Mifsud	<i>Hospitality: A sanctuary of education</i>

No. 56	Jun 7	Luz Tamayo Duque	<i>Phenomenology &amp; self-affirmation</i>
No. 57	July 5	Dr Laner Cassar	<i>Carl Jung: Irrationality, fantasy &amp; meaningful craziness</i>
No. 58	September 6	Tomas Hed	<i>What's the point of art?</i>
No. 59	October 4	Dr Mark Montebello	<i>Luteru u l-filosofija</i>
No. 60	November 1	Alfred Zammit	<i>Esperimenti bil-ħsieb</i>
No. 61	December 6	(Various)	<i>Why violence?</i>

The Annual Philosophy Lecture was held at the Grand Hotel Corinthia, Floriana, on 8 March by Prof. John Ryder on *Politics by Twitter: Has social communication become a problem?*

#### IN GOZO:

No. 7	February 3	Aaron Formosa	<i>Jean Paul Sartre &amp; the human predicament</i>
No. 8	March 3	Dr Mario Grech	<i>Philosophical perspectives of forgiveness</i>
No. 9	March 31	Dr Silvio Meli	<i>Justice &amp; the muses: A Maltese perspective</i>
No. 10	May 5	Dr Alfred Sant	<i>The experience of a European identity</i>
No. 11	October 6	Ian Rizzo	<i>The philosophy of naturism</i>
No. 12	November 3	Gabriel Gauci	<i>Is philosophy a way of life?</i>
No. 13	December 1	(Various)	<i>Can violence be by love?</i>

#### COURSES

The Foundation offered six (6) public courses during the year, out of which four (4) were delivered in Maltese. The average attendance of 14 students. Each course consisted of five (5) talks each, delivered on successive Mondays. All courses were held at the Valletta Volunteer Centre. Attendees received Certification of Attendance. The following list shows the dates of each course, the main theme discussed, and the lecturer who directed the discussions:

##### SEASON 4 (2016/17):

No. 22	January 9 – February 6	Prof. Lino Bianco	<i>Il-filosofija tal-arkitettura</i>
No. 23	March 6 – April 3	Karl Borg	<i>The nature of truth</i>
No. 24	April 24 – May 29	Dr Mark Montebello	<i>Machiavelli u l-makkjavelliżmu</i>

##### SEASON 5 (2017/18):

No. 25	September 18 – October 5	Dr Max Cassar	<i>Dahla għall-filosofija</i>
No. 26	October 9 – November 6	Dr Clive Zammit	<i>Images of transgression</i>
No. 27	November 14 – December 12	Dr Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici/Michael Grech	<i>Il-filosofija tal-paċi</i>

#### NEWSLETTER

The Foundation's newsletter, *Il-Miżwed*, was issued four (4) times during the year (Issues 19–22). It was distributed via Internet in PDF format. The issues were delivered more or less at the beginning of each calendar season, namely in February, April, June and October.

#### INTERNET

The Foundation's website ([www.philosophysharing.org](http://www.philosophysharing.org)) was regularly updated throughout the year.

The Foundation's YouTube Channels, one for each branch, were regularly enriched with uploaded video registrations of the Foundation's public meetings and promotional material. The addresses are the following:

- Malta's: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI9duzf2mjkMZUshK-VIqIQ>
- Gozo's: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMvhrg1UK4I9mO490c9YLCg>

The Foundation's Facebook pages, one for each branch, were regularly updated and posted with relevant material. The addresses are the following:

- Malta's: <https://www.facebook.com/Philosophy-Sharing-Malta-1173724952658306>
- Gozo's: [https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=philosophy\\_sharing\\_gozo](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=philosophy_sharing_gozo)

#### MEMBERSHIP

Up till the end of the year the Foundation's registered members in Malta and Gozo combined stood at seventy-five (75) as in the previous year.

#### FINANCIAL STATUS

The financial records of the Foundation for the period are presented in a separate document.

**DR MARK MONTEBELLO**  
*SECRETARY*  
**Wednesday, February 7, 2018**