

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fostering Critical Thinking and Media Literacy – Strengthening European Democracy through Adult Education Transnational Cooperation Activity (TCA)

A representative of the Malta Communications Authority took part in a contact seminar in Berlin entitled “Fostering critical thinking and media literacy – Strengthening European democracy through adult education” which was held between the 10th and 12th December 2018 in Berlin – Germany.

The seminar attendees had the opportunity to learn about the new trends of digital inclusion, namely Critical thinking and media literacy. The seminar was a great opportunity for the Authority to get to know new organisations from all over Europe with the same interests, which can be valuable for future partnerships in European projects. Together, they discussed new project proposals for the coming Erasmus+ submission period 2019.

Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) Peer Review Event

The MCA participated in a peer review event held between the 10th and 13th December 2018 in Budapest, Hungary. This event served to update participants on the activities being undertaken by the RSPG and gave an opportunity to stakeholders to share their experience on spectrum awards. A peer review of the Slovenian and Hungarian upcoming spectrum awards also took place during this event.

37th BEREC Plenary Meetings

Officials representing the Malta Communications Authority attended the 37th BEREC Plenary meetings held on the 6th and 7th December 2018 in Prague, hosted by the CTO, the Czech Telecommunications Office. BEREC adopted various documents including its highly anticipated Opinion for the evaluation of the application of Regulation (EU) 2015/2120 and the BEREC Net Neutrality Guidelines. The objective of this Opinion is to provide input, based on BEREC’s experience with the application of the Regulation and the BEREC Net

Neutrality Guidelines, to the European Commission’s report to the European Parliament and the Council on the review of the Regulation, which is due by 30th April 2019.

BEREC also initiated public consultations, which are open until 18th January 2019, on: the [draft BEREC Common Position on Mobile Infrastructure Sharing](#); and the [draft report on Termination of Contracts and Switching of Provider](#).

Elections for Chair and vice-Chairs were also held. In 2019 BEREC will be chaired by Jeremy Godfrey (ComReg, Ireland) together with five Vice-Chairs: newly elected Tanja Muha (AKOS, Slovenia), Marcin Cichy (UKE, Poland) and Konstantinos Masselos (EETT, Greece), an outgoing BEREC Chair Johannes Gungl (RTR, Austria) and incoming BEREC Chair 2020 Dan Sjöblom (PTS, Sweden).

ICT 2018 Imagine Digital – Connect Europe

An MCA representative attended the ICT 2018 Imagine Digital – Connect Europe Expert Group meeting on the 4th and 5th December 2018 in Vienna, Austria. Various sessions regarding the direction of the Commission, the member states and industry in ICT were attended. Focus was made on session concerning 5G, IoT, Cloud Computing, Smart Cities and H2020 calls. A ‘Digital Innovation Hubs’ session was also attended and information was obtained as regards the Cybersecurity PPP.

During the networking sessions, multiple contacts interested in partnering up in future H2020 calls were made. These included: Nesta, 5G City consortium, Nimble Consortium, Arctur, Dr. Gilan L. Rosner

66th Radio Spectrum Committee (RSCOM) meeting

An MCA official attended the 66th Radio Spectrum Committee meeting on the 5th and 6th December 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting discussed various measures aimed at harmonising the use of radio spectrum in the EU. Amongst other things, the Committee adopted modifications to Commission Decision 2008/411/EC concerning the use of the 3.4-3.8 GHz band in the European Union. The Committee has also continued with its deliberations on a draft new instrument

harmonising the use of 26 GHz band for next-generation (5G) wireless broadband electronic communications services. The RSCOM has also discussed frequency relating aspects concerning drones and ultra-wideband applications.

H2020 Future Internet Forum 8th Meeting

On the 3rd December 2018 the MCA attended the 8th Future Internet Forum (FIF) meeting in Vienna, Austria, at the Ministry for Innovation and Technology.

The meeting which was chaired by Pearse O'Donohue, Director for the Future Networks Directorate of DG CONNECT at the European Commission focused on the European Commission's Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiative. It explored in particular industry's participation in NGI.

A number of presentations and discussions on NGI open calls related to Discovery and Identification technologies, Privacy and Trust enhancing technologies and de-centralised data governance ensued.

An update on other NGI calls in the areas of interactive technologies, multilingual and inclusive NGI was also delivered to the attendees.

Finally the attendees were presented with two NGI projects which are currently on-going in Austria namely [Foodnetlab](#) and [Compass](#).

Postal Directive Committee Meeting

On the 3rd December 2018 an official from the MCA participated in the Postal Directive Committee meeting. The meeting primarily focused on a discussion on the future postal regulatory framework, the implementation of the Regulation on cross-border parcel delivery services and international issues related to the postal service. An overview on the activities of the ERGP in 2018 and an outlook on activities for 2019 was also presented during the meeting.

PUBLICATIONS

A Regulatory Assessment of GO Plc's zero-rating offers GO TV Anywhere, GO

TV Anywhere Lite and GO Music Wild Card

Published On: Dec 28th 2018 Decision

Consultation on proposed revisions to Decision No. MCA/D/17-2868 concerning the assignment process for the 1.5 GHz band

Published On: Dec 27th 2018 Consultation

Cloud Computing amongst Local Business Organisations: A Study

Published On: Dec 21st 2018 News

The provision of call termination on individual public telephone networks at a fixed location in Malta

Published On: Dec 19th 2018 News

The provision of call termination on individual public telephone networks at a fixed location

Published On: Dec 19th 2018 Decision

Wholesale voice call termination on individual mobile networks in Malta

Published On: Dec 19th 2018 News

Wholesale voice call termination on individual mobile networks in Malta

Published On: Dec 19th 2018 Decision

The Women4IT Project Launched

Published On: Dec 14th 2018 News

MCA appointed as the designated entity to implement the EU Accessibility Directive

Published On: Dec 12th 2018 News

Virtual Unbundled Access to Fibre-to-the Home: Enhancing the Non-discrimination Obligation Decision

Published On: Dec 11th 2018 Decision

Registered Mail - MaltaPost plc change in tariffs Decision

Published On: Dec 10th 2018 Decision

Data Report Sheet (DRS) with the latest figures is published

Published On: Dec 4th 2018 News

Key market indicators for electronic communications and post: Q1 2014 to Q3 2018

Published On: Dec 4th 2018 Data Report Sheet

Decision on Postal Collection Times

Published On: Dec 4th 2018 Decision

MEDIA ACTIVITY

Television:

Date: 04.12.2018

Channel: Net TV

Programme: Life & Style

Topic: Consumer Tips Campaign (Part 1)

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

Date: 05.12.2018

Channel: Net TV

Programme: Tearoom

Topic: Consumer Tips Campaign (Part 1)

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

Date: 07.12.2018

Channel: One TV

Programme: Espresso

Topic: Consumer Tips Campaign (Part 1)

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

Date: 11.12.2018

Channel: Net TV

Programme: Life & Style

Topic: Consumer Tips Campaign (Part 2)

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

Date: 12.12.2018

Channel: Net TV

Programme: Tearoom

Topic: Consumer Tips Campaign (Part 2)

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

Date: 21.12.2018

Channel: One TV

Programme: Espresso

Topic: Consumer Tips Campaign (Part 2)

Participant: Yanika Bugeja

LEGAL UPDATES

Legislation:

- 420 of 2018 – General Authorisations (Radiocommunications Apparatus) (Amendment) Regulations, [2018 Government Gazette Of Malta No. 20,102](#) – 11.12.2018
- 419 of 2018 – Fees leviable by Government Departments (Amendment No. 3) Regulations, [2018 Government Gazette Of Malta No. 20,102](#) – 11.12.2018

EVENTS

Social Media Guidelines for Educators Launched

Online communication has become our primary source of communication. Whilst one might enter into lengthy debates about the consequences this has had on society, it is undeniable that such communication tools have had an impact on us. Online communication is revolutionary in that, like TV it has allowed us to reach a mass audience, however, unlike TV, it simultaneously also allows for instant two-way communication. This form of communication has eliminated distances and flattened traditional social hierarchies. The weight of this new reality is felt by all, particularly by Educators – as professionals expected to guide students through the intricate dynamics of growing up with such tools in hand. The complexities that arise from the use of these new technologies are arguably more challenging to adults as digital immigrants. For this reason, BeSmartOnline! which is a consortium coordinated by the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) and which brings together FSWS (Aġenzija Appoġġ), the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes (DLAP), particularly the PSCD Department, from time to time launches campaigns aimed at giving parents advice that will help them understand the complexities of online communication and feel confident talking to their children about online safety. As part of this, the Ministry for Education has formed a working group that was tasked with the drafting of a set of guidelines which

shall support teachers in their use of electronic communication, particularly social media tools.

Social media tools provide exciting opportunities for educators to further their knowledge, teach, create and communicate. This technology has made the teaching profession more vulnerable to risks associated with privacy and reputation amongst others. When coupled with various awareness raising initiatives implemented through the BeSmartOnline! project, these guidelines offer a strong reference point which educators can use to avoid falling victim to a host of online risks. The aim of the social media guidelines for educators, launched for consultation this morning was thus, to inform educators on how they may minimize the risks when using electronic communications and social networking, and so ensuring that they maintain professional boundaries and trust in their profession. Today's consultation also provided the opportunity for union management and other stakeholders to voice their concerns and provide their feedback on the draft presented.



Addressing the audience, the Parliamentary Secretary for Youths, Sports and Voluntary Organisations, Clifton Grima, said that, “Electronic communications and social media create new opportunities for extending and enhancing education. The use of social media brings also responsibilities for all, and even more so for educators. Maintaining professional boundaries in all forms of communication, technology-related or not, is vital to maintaining the public trust and appropriate professional relationships.”

Present for the event was Mr. Karl Hopwood, an independent eSafety expert, member of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, and part of the advisory board for the UK Safer Internet

Centre. With vast experience in the sector, Mr. Hopwood has worked for key players in the UK and abroad, including the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and the British Educational and Communications Technology Agency as well as several local authorities within the UK and the European Commission. As an ex primary head teacher who continues to work closely with children, young people, parents and teachers, Mr. Hopwood shared his thoughts, experiences and valuable tips with those educational stakeholders present. He

insisted on the need for each school to have clear policies and guidelines on the use of electronic communications and social media tools, so that all educators may behave online in a way which does not call into question their position as professionals.

For more information visit www.besmartonline.org.mt or follow BSO on Facebook.