

## News

# 124 professionals trained to deal with children at risk

124 professionals from the Foundation for Social Welfare Service and other entities working in the social sector attended a number of training sessions related to children experiencing or at risk of experiencing abuse.

James Blewett from the Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London delivered the first training sessions entitled, *Training of Professionals working in the Area of Child Protection*. 94 professionals from *Agenzija Appogg, Agenzija Sedqa, Agenzija Support* and also from other entities such as Children's Homes, Richmond Foundation, Mount Carmel Hospital, Department for Social Welfare Standards, Vice Squad, Office of the Children Commissioner, Child Safety Services and the Domestic Violence Commission, have attended this training.

The aim was to improve child protection systems by taking decisive action when children need to be protected. The sessions tackled issues such as Assessment Tools, Risk Assessment, In-depth Case Reviews, Auditing of Complex Cases, and the importance of Working Together. The overall aim was to strengthen service delivery by imparting more skills to practitioners and to promote inter-agency work through workshops.

30 professionals from *Agenzija Appogg, Agenzija Sedqa* and from other entities working in the field attended the second training, related to *Children and the Court*. Phil King and Ann Lowe from the Independent Social Work Associates, United Kingdom, delivered this training. The aim was to explore new and existing practices pertaining to cases where children have to witness in court, and to enhance the skills of local professionals who work in the field.

The training included sessions on: Preparing Children for Court; Carrying out Court Assessments; Report writing for Courts; Giving evidence in Court; Assisting and preparing children for access visits; and the importance of Working Together. The training also stressed the importance of inter-agency work on issues such as service provision, information sharing between different professionals involved in the case, assessments, case development and case management.

The third training session, *Management Development*, was targeted for the management of the Foundation for Social Welfare Services and the management of entities working in the areas of *Child Protection and Children and the Courts* emphasising practical ways of improving frontline practice within and between various agencies in Malta.



The Management Development Training sessions were delivered by ThinkTalent's professionals, Joe Dimech, Beverley Cutajar and Patrick Psaila. Issues discussed were: The Value of Teamwork and Collaboration; Change Management; and De-

veloping Policy.

The training sessions were organised by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat. The ultimate aim of the Commonwealth Training is to develop a National Inter-agency Child Protection Policy, and to submit to the Maltese government policies on child protection.

Six out of 52 playgrounds 'in an awful state'



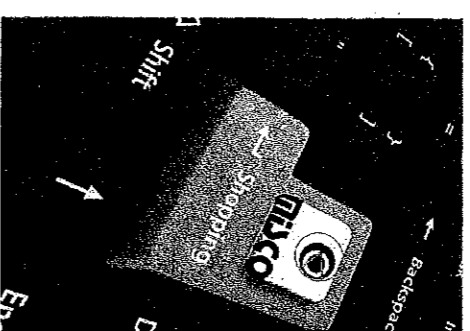
## MISCO study on latest online shopping trends

Is online shopping an opportunity for Maltese retailers? Do the Maltese prefer local sites for their shopping? These are some of the questions tackled in MISCO's latest research study in a bid to identify the impact of the Internet on the local shopping and market trends.

Entitled *MISCO Shopping Insights - Online Shopping*, this research was carried out in collaboration with marketing consultancy firm Corporate Identities.

Besides the successful take up of online media and social networking, there has been a surge in the number of e-commerce sites. In Malta, this achieves further relevance when considered within the fact that Malta's Internet penetration is well above the EU average in broadband take-up, both in terms of households and businesses. Malta in fact has the highest number of households in the EU with a broadband connection, while broadband take-up by businesses is the fourth highest in the EU.

The research analyses which products and services the Maltese are willing to buy online and a number of other significant trends in online shopping such as what attracts them



to certain products and what they are willing to pay for. The research also highlights on what prices the Maltese are willing to pay for, and if and what might keep them away from purchasing or products online.

Those interested in acquiring MISCO Shopping Insights line Shopping, are requested to contact Vanessa Demanuele at [vdemanuele@misco.mt](mailto:vdemanuele@misco.mt) or ring on 2122-0303.

## Mapping the European Landscapes

A collaboration that was created by the embassy of Malta in Copenhagen and the Directorate for Educational Services of the Ministry of Education with Swedish artist Katerina Mistal, resulted in the participation of the Sliema Primary School, as representatives of school children from Malta.

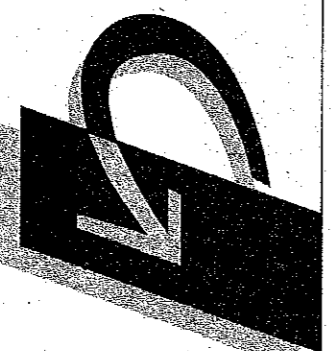
In an ongoing photography project about continents, Katerina Mistal travels along the European coastline trying to depict a map from the coastline. The project involves children from primary schools and/or children from several different choirs. They sing old songs that pass from generation to generation, expressing pride and tell of the country's history.

"In a sense you could say that they sing the landscape," Katerina says. "Why represent the landscape? To relate to an open landscape one can soul-search in relation to the world. Maybe that's why I choose to work with the children in the images that represent their countries."

The children represented in their photographs from different European countries, form a line that follows land edges against the open sea. Katerina is trying to depict where the country ends and where the land is divided by the sea. The wide bays and rough cliffs that once shared same European continent are by means of these lines of children. It is the shape of the European continent that has interested Katerina in her travels, whereby discovering the similarities between different landscapes. In the project children from primary schools together in the wide scenery along the coast, forming a line that follows the sea, in her photography-based project Katerina tries to depict the of Europe.

The outcome of the photography project will be part of a photographic exhibition about the European landscape and a publication by Katerina Mistal.

## Advertising on Boarding Passes to be distributed at Cirkewwa Port



Gozo Channel Company limited invites offers from established corporate bodies, individuals and other entities who may be interested in utilising one side of the boarding passes as an advertising medium. Boarding passes consumption averages around 2,000,000 annually.

Written expression of interest for the printing of 2,000,000 boarding passes by any entity/party who is interested in this venture are to be submitted.

Offers should reach the Company's head office by not later than noon on Friday 29th July, 2011 in sealed envelopes marked "Boarding Passes Advertising" and addressed to:

## 'Government is responsible for transport disaster'

Labour MP Joseph Sammut, party spokesman for transport, said the government is responsible for the disaster of the public transport system. The government had for 18 months been boasting it was making its plans, and had spent over €300,000 in consultations, half of them for Nationalist candidate Georg Sapianno, and until the system came into being, look credit for the system.

Now these people are pointing accusatory fingers towards a minority of employees who did not report for work, instead of admitting their incompetence and apologising, Dr Sammut said.



## I saw of the sea