



# Malta's Libraries: A challenge to change

Follow-up meeting

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*Presented during a follow-up meeting organised by MaLIA at the  
MITTS, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2006.*



# Objectives of the Follow-up meeting

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- To present a set of resolutions for approval
- Resolutions based on the feedback gained during the MaLIA Forum
- Following approval, these resolutions will be disseminated to the authorities, decision makers, media and all those involved in the sector.



## Important note

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- The MaLIA Council, after taking into consideration all the valid comments and suggestions made during the forum, has decided that the resolutions will not focus on particular areas or types of libraries but should incorporate the main issues that have been discussed and that apply to most sectors.
- All the comments made have, however, been noted in detail and will undoubtedly serve as reference, together with the report recommendations, when MaLIA, as indicated in the first resolution, will start bilateral discussions with all the relevant authorities in the coming months.



# Resolution 1

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- The Forum confirms the need for increased cooperation with all the entities involved in the running of libraries in Malta and Gozo. MaLIA will therefore embark on a campaign to meet with the relevant authorities to discuss and assist, wherever possible, in the implementation of the recommendations published in the *Report on the State of Maltese Libraries*.



## Resolution 2

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- Following the emphasis made during the Forum on the need for standards and guidelines for Maltese libraries, MaLIA resolves to prepare draft guidelines and minimum standards in consultation with the relevant authorities and taking into consideration the standards recommended by UNESCO, IFLA and other international bodies. The finalised guidelines and minimum standards should be formally endorsed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment.



## Resolution 3

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- The need for adequate budget allocation for Maltese libraries has been one of the issues highlighted during the Forum. MaLIA expects all the authorities concerned to seriously sustain libraries so that they are in a position to provide quality services to their users.



## Resolution 4

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- As indicated in the Report on the State of the Maltese Libraries and during the Forum, there is a dire need for more qualified and trained staff in Maltese libraries. MaLIA expects that the authorities concerned to sustain the development of library workers by providing adequate training opportunities. The attainment of library qualifications is also highly desirable and employers should provide opportunities to their staff to further their studies locally and abroad.



## Resolution 5

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- The developments that have taken place in ICT at national level have not been sufficiently reflected in the library sector. MaLIA recommends to the relevant authorities to incorporate the use of ICT in libraries, along with the appropriate training for library staff, so that services such as online catalogues and Internet points will be provided to users, to facilitate access to quality electronic information resources.



## Resolution 6

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- MaLIA confirms the need for a National Bibliographic Centre that will bring the Malta National Bibliography up-to-date and provide other bibliographic services to the library systems in Malta and Gozo which are fundamental for the development of libraries and their services.



# Resolution 7

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- MaLIA emphasises that the legislation about libraries (under consideration) should be speedily enacted and should reflect MaLIA's proposals to improve the current management infrastructure and also to recognise qualified library and information workers as professionals.

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- Comments?