

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 14th December 2023:

8:30 – 9:00	Welcome Coffee
9:00 – 9:15	Opening Ceremony Dr Lorna Bonnici West <i>Director of Research & Innovation (MCAST)</i> Dr Tatjana Chircop <i>Deputy Principal of Research & Innovation (MCAST)</i> Prof Joachim James Calleja <i>Principal and CEO (MCAST)</i> Hon. Clifton Grima <i>Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation</i>
9:15 – 10:15	Session 1 – Panel Discussion <i>Opportunities and challenges of using conversational AI in education and research.</i>
10:15 – 10:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:45 – 12:45	Session 2 – Presentations <i>Education and Sustainability through EdTech and CleanTech</i>
12:45 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Session 3 – Workshops (1) <i>Promoting Hydration Across the Lifespan – MRC Auditorium</i> (2) <i>Research project management: sharing of good practices (Waterline Project) – MRC Room 001</i> (3) <i>Annotation of Benthic Species Workshop (AMBULANT Project) - MRC Foyer</i> (4) <i>The H.E.A.R.T approach: a toolkit for adult educators and other front-line workers working with young people – MRC Room 135</i>
15:00 – 16:30	Session 4 – Presentations <i>Vocational education and entrepreneurship</i>
16:30	End of Day One

Friday 15th December 2023:

8:30 – 9:00	Welcome Coffee
9:00 – 09:15	Opening Speeches Dr Lorna Bonnici West <i>Director of Research & Innovation (MCAST)</i> Hon. Keith Azzopardi Tanti <i>Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Research and Innovation</i>
9:15 – 11:05	Session 1 – Presentations <i>Vocational education and entrepreneurship</i> <i>Creative Arts Research</i>
11:05 – 11:35	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:35 – 13:30	Session 2 – Presentations <i>Cultivating Sustainability in Natural Ecosystems</i> <i>Technology for exploration, monitoring and industry</i>
13:30 – 14:15	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:15 – 15:15	Session 3 – Presentations <i>Social Sciences, Health & Food</i>
15:15 – 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Session 4 – Presentations <i>Social Sciences, Health & Food (cont.)</i>
16:30	Closure

PROGRAMME OUTLINE – DAY 1

THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER

ROOM: AUDITORIUM – MRC BUILDING

8:30 – 9:00	WELCOME COFFEE
9:00 – 9:15	<p>OPENING CEREMONY</p> <p>Dr Lorna Bonnici West <i>Director of Research & Innovation (MCAST)</i></p> <p>Dr Tatjana Chircop <i>Deputy Principal of Research & Innovation (MCAST)</i></p> <p>Prof Joachim James Calleja <i>Principal and CEO (MCAST)</i></p> <p>Hon. Clifton Grima <i>Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation</i></p>
SESSION 1 9:15 – 10:15	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION - Moderator: Ms Gonca Kara</p> <p><i>Opportunities and challenges of using conversational AI in education and research.</i></p> <p>Panelists: Mr Thomas Gatt, Mr Gerard Said Pullicino, Prof Alexie Dingli, Dr Salma ElSayed, Mr Anthony Camilleri, Mr Patrick Hulsen</p>
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee Break
SESSION 2 10:45 – 12:45	<p>RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>Education and Sustainability through EdTech and CleanTech</p> <p><i>Re-thinking the teaching of mathematics: COVID-19 and beyond</i> Marouska Zahra Micallef</p> <p><i>Empowering Learning Through Game Creation: Investigating the Impact of Educational Technology on Students' Engagement and Attainment Level in Subject-Based Game Design.</i> Silvio Nocilla</p> <p><i>Transforming advanced water skilling through the creation of a network of XR water emulative centres</i> Daren Scerri, Lorna Bonnici West, Edwin Zammit</p> <p><i>Unpacking the Pedagogical Potential: An Investigation into the Effectiveness of ChatGPT-Generated Lesson Plans in Modern Vocational Education</i> David Deguara, Daren Scerri, Gerard Said Pullicino, Thomas Gatt</p> <p><i>Autonomous application for info mapping scrapbook during the dissertation journey (STAR)</i> Gerard Said Pullicino, Stephane Role, Lorna Bonnici West, Alan Gatt, Daren Scerri, Lisa Theuma, Geoffrey Attard</p> <p><i>Data Exploration, Computation, and Optimization for Discovery and Experimentation (DECODE)</i> Frankie Inguanez, Alan Gatt</p> <p>DATAVISUAL Frankie Inguanez, Alan Gatt</p>



	<p><i>EIT Urban Mobility Regional Innovation Scheme Hub Malta</i> Pelin Uner <i>Enhancing Education Curricula on Electromobility</i> Albana Gerxhi, Andy Bugeja <i>Mediterranean Island Cleantech Innovation Ecosystem (MICIE) project</i> Rozela Franco</p>
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch Break
SESSION 3	WORKSHOPS 1 – 4
13:30 – 15:00	<p>(1) <i>Promoting Hydration Across the Lifespan – MRC Auditorium</i></p> <p>(2) <i>Research project management: sharing of good practices (WATERLINE project) – MRC Room 001</i></p> <p>(3) <i>Annotation of Benthic Species Workshop (AMBULANT Project) – MRC Foyer</i></p> <p>(4) <i>The H.E.A.R.T. approach: a toolkit for adult educators and other front-line workers working with young people – MRC Room 135</i></p>
SESSION 4	RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS
15:00 – 16:30	<p>Vocational education and entrepreneurship</p> <p><i>Green Labs 4 VET</i> Olivia Siino</p> <p><i>Connecting VET schools and Industry 4.0 through 'Making'</i> Damian Brincat</p> <p><i>Development of the Entrepreneurial Mindset Curriculum</i> Maria Ragia</p> <p><i>Taking the leap into female entrepreneurship: The motivating factors of educators investing in small businesses in Malta.</i> Theresa Demanuele Montebello</p> <p><i>Enhancing Vocational Programming Education through Gamified Digital Learning: The GOLEM Initiative</i> David Deguara, Paul Pulis</p> <p><i>EQVEGAN</i> Joshua Bugeja</p>
16:30	End of Day One

PROGRAMME OUTLINE – DAY 2

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER

ROOM: AUDITORIUM – MRC BUILDING

8:30 – 9:00	WELCOME COFFEE
9:00 – 9:15	OPENING SPEECHES
	<p>Dr Lorna Bonnici West <i>Director of Research & Innovation (MCAST)</i></p>
	<p>Hon. Keith Azzopardi Tanti <i>Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Research and Innovation</i></p>
SESSION 1	RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS
9:15 – 9:40	Vocational education and entrepreneurship
	<p><i>Tools for T</i> Nadia Boffa <i>How do innovation hubs help start ups exploit and expand business opportunities? MITA: case study</i> Nadia Boffa</p>
9:40 – 11:10	Creative Arts Research
	<p><i>Applying a multidisciplinary approach in completing a dissertation in subjects in the Creative Arts</i> Ian Attard <i>Transformative Learning in the Music Industry: An Autoethnographic Study of a Music Producer's career towards academia</i> Cassandra Sturgeon Delia, Rene Mamo <i>Teaching, Practice and Performance Strategies in Instrumental Music Teaching in Malta.</i> Alistair Attard <i>The Magic Potion for the Immortality of the Maltese Song: L' Ahhar Bidwi f' Wied il-Ghasel.</i> Rene Mamo <i>Documenting Maltese Illustration - An Observational and Exploratory Analysis of Common Themes, Potentials, and Challenges in Contemporary Maltese Illustration - Mural and Visual Research</i> Ruth Ancilleri <i>Documenting Maltese Illustration - An Observational and Exploratory Analysis of Common Themes, Potentials, and Challenges in Contemporary Maltese Illustration</i> Maira Scicluna Zahra <i>Queer characters on the Maltese stage in the 1970s</i> Tyrone Grima</p>



11:05 – 11:35	Coffee Break
SESSION 2	RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS
11:35 – 12:20	<p>Cultivating Sustainability in Natural Ecosystems</p> <p><i>UNified framework to cope with droughts under MEDiterranean climate change conditions (UNIMED)</i> Carmelina Frendo</p> <p><i>MED-WET - Sustainable Water Irrigation and Supply for Agriculture</i> Francesca Busuttil</p> <p><i>Modernizing Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems (modernAKIS): A Step into a 7-year journey</i> Sarah Camilleri</p> <p><i>Substantial increase in urban breeding Blue Rock Thrush Monticola solitarius (il-Merill) in Malta.</i> Natalino Fenech</p> <p><i>Interactions between bottlenose dolphins and small-scale fisheries in Malta</i> Kimberly Terribile</p>
12:20 – 13:30	<p>Technology for exploration, monitoring and industry</p> <p><i>AutonoMous Bio-mimetic Underwater vehicle for digitAI cage monitoring</i> Owen Sacco, David Deguara, Daren Scerri</p> <p><i>SMARTPOL - Environmental Monitoring</i> Juan Jose` Bonello</p> <p><i>A study into the design of a remotely-controlled and autonomous sea-faring drone for monitoring water quality in the sea.</i> Mark Theuma</p> <p><i>Obstacle Avoidance in the SmartPol Project</i> Kevin Theuma</p> <p><i>Continuous Assessment of Pollutants and Environmental Events via Satellite Data (CAPES)</i> Daren Scerri, Frankie Inguanez, Juan Jose Bonello</p> <p><i>Dead Reckoning of an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle in a GPS denied environment</i> Jeremy Scerri</p> <p><i>STREAMing on-demand satellite data</i> Aldo Drago, David Debono</p> <p><i>A Satellite Damage Sensor</i> Kevin Theuma</p> <p><i>Intelligent Inventory - Using data to predict inventory safety stock in Industry</i> Stephane Role</p> <p><i>An overview on Smart Ballistic Optimization for Repairing of Aerospace Exostructures using 3D printed Kevlar</i> Leonardo Barilaro</p>

13:30 – 14:15	Lunch Break
SESSION 3	RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS
14:15 – 15:15	<p>Social Sciences, Health & Food</p> <p><i>Exploration and Implementation of Products with Alternative Proteins in Mediterranean Region</i> Frederick Lia <i>Bioactive compounds extracted from Olive mill waste</i> Frederick Lia <i>ANTIVIRAL MEDHERBS: Investigating the antiviral activity and immunomodulatory effects of Mediterranean herbs and spices against SARS-CoV-2</i> Jean-Pierre Brincat <i>Religious autonomy-support and Children’s Prosociality</i> Isabelle Zammit <i>Student-Researchers as Co-constructors of the PE Curriculum - Study Protocol</i> Anna Maria Gatt <i>Why is Hydration Important in Healthcare?</i> Marisa Vella</p>
15:25– 15:40	Coffee Break
SESSION 4	RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS
15:40 – 16:30	<p>Social Sciences, Health & Food (cont.)</p> <p><i>Preventing Dropping Out In Post-Secondary Education Focusing On Lower-Level Courses At The MCAST Institute Of Community Services</i> Marilyn Pace Mintoff <i>An exploration of student biographies in Higher education: A narrative inquiry.</i> David Callaby Floridaia <i>Childhood obesity in the Mediterranean Islands</i> Paul Calleja <i>The Fun Fit 5 (FF5) Project - A Study of a Daily Physical Activity Programme in Primary Schools in Malta</i> Melanie Darmanin, Renzo Kerr-Cumbo, Matthew Muscat Inglott and Heathcliff Schembri</p>
16:30	Closure