

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 13th November 2025:

08:30 – 09:00	Welcome Coffee and Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Speeches
09:30 – 10:30	Research Fellows Presentations • <i>DOLPHIN CLIMASENT - Dolphins as Climate Change Sentinels – Michela Aquilina, Alice Turchi, Daniela Silvia Pace, Aldo Drago, Maria Cardona, Patrizia Patti</i> • <i>DIVES Project: Data-Integrated Visual Engagement Systems - Contextualising Project Aim, Needs Analysis, and Methodological Framework – Ian Attard</i> • <i>Traditional Maltese Textile Crafts: A Study on Their Contribution to Health and Wellbeing – Michela Debono</i> • <i>Sentiment Analysis and Cryptocurrency Price Correlation – Franco Farrugia, Cedric Deguara</i> • <i>TRACE: Non-Invasive Tagging of Loggerhead Hatchlings Using eDNA from sand tracks – Nina Vérité—Taulet, Timothy Zammit, Kimberly Terribile</i> • <i>Studying Process Engineering in Semiconductor Manufacturing from a Scientific Perspective: ScienceSemicon – Stephen Sammut, Kevin Formosa</i> • <i>Conducting farm trials and field station trials on the scope for microalgae to support crop production, including substituting for conventional inputs & coping with abiotic stresses – Jules Siedenburg, Malcolm Borg, John Galea</i> • <i>T.I.M.E.talk - Teaching Inquiry through Malta's Eras – Heathcliff Schembri</i> • <i>BioMatter Innovations: Transforming Agricultural Waste into Sustainable Bio-Based Materials for Smart Manufacturing – Alexia Massa Gallucci, David Sciberras, Frederick Lia</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:15	Session 1 – Research Presentations & Panel Discussion <i>Track 5 – Sustainable Research Across Education, Energy, and Environment</i> • <i>Efficiency of Asphalt Testing Methods – Nicholas Kast</i> • <i>ELEVATE - Empowering Island Students through Innovation and Entrepreneurship – Rozela Franco</i> • <i>Re-establishing the MCAST Microgrid as a Living Lab for Renewable Energy and Smart Grids – Brian Azzopardi</i>

	• <i>A methodology for incorporating Sustainability Skills into Higher Education Curricula</i> – Nadia Boffa, Robert Buttigieg, Joshua Bugeja • <i>A/r/tographic Exploration of Sustainable Printmaking Practices</i> – Carmen Aquilina • <i>OurOBS: Our joint ocean OBServations for the Malta-Sicily shelf</i> – Aldo Drago, Alfonso Siciliano, Alexia Massa Gallucci • <i>MEDSEAPLAN: Malta's Data and Scenarios for a Sustainable Mediterranean Blue Economy</i> – Geraldine Spiteri, Francis Delicata, Sarah Camilleri, Francesca Busuttil, Alfonso Siciliano • <i>Modern AKIS project</i> – Joseph Jason Abela, Massimo Pierucci, Sarah Camilleri • <i>COVERE² - Collecting, VErifying, Reducing, and Reporting Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i> – Rozela Franco • <i>SMARTPOL: development of an Unmanned Surface Vehicle based on the GNSS-Enabled Navigation technology</i> – Steve Zerafa, Andy Bugeja, Albert Bonnici • <i>Optimisation of a structural design and build solution for a multi-storey commercial building</i> – Joseph Falzon • <i>Towards a coordinated Marine Data Ecosystem for the Maltese Islands</i> – Aldo Drago, David Debono, Francis Delicata • <i>PAGES - A JPI-OCEANS project for the Good Environmental Status of the sea</i> – Aldo Drago, David Debono, Francis Delicata, Alan Gatt • <i>A Study of the Personal and Cultural aspects underpinning the Maltese Littering Behaviour</i> – Karl V.A. Camilleri, Michela Debono • <i>SmartShield</i> – Kevin Theuma
13:15 – 14:10	Lunch Break
14:10 – 15:50	Session 2 – Research Presentations & Panel Discussion <i>Track 3 - Business, Media, Arts, and Cultural Perspectives in Research & Track 4 - Technology, Healthcare, and the Human Experience in Research</i> • <i>Borma Tbaqbaq: Colonialism and the oppression of women</i> – Tyron Grima • <i>Exploring Play As A Coping Strategy And Its Non-Immediate Effects On Level 2 Performing Arts Students</i> – Rochelle Gatt • <i>Mitt Ruh: From Micro-story to rhizomatic theatre dramaturgy</i> – Victor Emmanuel Jacono • <i>Eco-Somatic Scores: Choreographic Navigations with Maltese Ecologies</i> – Shuntaro Yoshida • <i>Symmetries in Random Permutations</i> – Andrew Cortis • <i>Bridging Complexity and Practice: A Sequential GIS-Based Framework (SHIL)</i> – Alfonso Siciliano • <i>Using Google Earth to Assess Recreational Spaces in Malta: Implications for Child Physical Activity</i> – Johan Zarb, Fiona Wilson • <i>Data Exploration, Computation, and Optimization for Discovery and Experimentation (DECODE)</i> – Alan Gatt, Frankie Inguanez • <i>Detecting Marine Debris using an AI Autoencoder model and Computer Vision Pipeline</i> – Thomas Gatt • <i>Prompt, Think, Move: LLMs as High-Level Robot Controllers</i> – James Cassar, Jeremy Scerri, Joseph Zammit



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15:50 – 16:30	<i>Networking coffee with the SRO</i>	<i>Networking coffee with the Research Fellow</i>
16:30	Closure	

Friday 14th November 2025:

08:30 – 09:00	Welcome Coffee and Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome Speeches
09:30 – 10:30	Workshops - A hands-on workshop to explore interdisciplinary EdTech Innovations at MCAST (Projects: REACH-ETHICS, T.I.M.E.talks, SELBI, WATERLINE, DEFI, DIVES) - MRC Auditorium - Hilietna – Michela Debono - MRC Auditorium
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	Workshops - Images of womanhood: an exploration through Boal's technique of Image Theatre – Dr Tyrone Grima - MRC Room 241 (MRC second floor, within Library) - From micro stories to micro scenes – Dr Victor Emanuel Jacono - NGO area (within MRC, Binja Oliver Friggieri) - Plasma use in Microelectronics Packaging – Dr. Ing. Stephen Sammut - Room N103, Block N (Main IET building)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:30	Session 1 – Research Presentations & Panel Discussion Track 1 - Interdisciplinary Innovations in Research & Track 2 - Research in Education, Social Sciences, and Policy - SELBI: Supporting Early childhood education in Blue skills with generative AI – Shirley Ann Gauci, Francis Delicata, Alan Gatt, Frankie Inguanez, Heathcliff Schembri, Kimberly Terribile - The Ceramic Narrative Experiment – Claudia Anne Chircop - AI and the Future of Media Education – Danjel Bugeja, Simon Callus - An Innovative Training Approach for ResEARCH ETHICS – Lorna Bonnici West, Daren Scerri, Alan Gatt, David Deguara, David Debono, Marisa Galea Vella, Marco Montalto, Lisa Theuma, Francis Delicata - Digital water education through extended reality: the WATERLINE project – Lorna Bonnici West, Daren Scerri, Edwin Zammit, Alex Rizzo, Geoffrey Attard, Emman Nocilla, Lisa Theuma - Interdisciplinary Research Community of Practice (IRCoP) – Lorna Bonnici West - The COMPASS Project: Stakeholder Voices on Teacher Education in Malta – Eliza Cachia, Ann Marie Cassar, Melanie Darmanin, Shirley Ann Gauci, Heathcliff Schembri



	• <i>EngageAll: Inclusive Student Civic Engagement as a Pathway for Enhanced Skills & Competences in Professional Higher Education – Christianne Gatt, Heathcliff Schembri, Claire Sciberras</i> • <i>Is there a linguistically “proper” way to speak Maltese? Educators' Linguistic Ideologies on Purism and Flexibility – Melanie Darmanin</i> • <i>Implementing international AI policies in TVET: UNESCO-UNEVOC to the Classroom – Cassandra Sturgeon Delia, Ivan De Battista</i> • <i>Meaning Making Through Relational Ministry: A GT Approach to Student Development in Higher Education – David Callaby Florida</i> • <i>Vocational Education and Training Students' Subjective Well-being – Claire Abela, Elaine Atkins, Isabelle Zammit</i> • <i>From Java to Python: Evaluating Student Outcomes and Teacher Experiences in the Computing Secondary Education Syllabus Transition – Robert Abela</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Closure