IFER: Integrated Fire Engineering and Response?
COST in Malta! Welcome

Dr Janet Mifsud
COST CNC CSO Malta
Janet.mifsud@um.edu.mt
Cost.mcst@gov.mt
Malta....
Malta

- 50 miles south of Sicily and 150 miles from North Africa
- 400,000 inhabitants.

- First inhabitants 7,000 years ago during the Neolithic period, when the megalithic temples were constructed.
Neolithic Temples in Malta

- since 3600 BC, at over 20 sites in Malta and Gozo.
- god(dess) of fertility are same shape as the temples.
Neolithic Temples in Malta

- Since 3600 BC, at over 20 sites in Malta and Gozo.
- God(dess) of fertility are same shape as the temples.
- Highly complex: structure aligned to summer equinox
- First scholarly/industrial synergy?
- Is big beautiful?

Figurines from Hagar Qim, 2800 BC

Mnajdra complex, Zurrieq, 3000 BC
Malta

- The first known inhabitants in historic times were the Phoenicians, followed by the Carthaginians and Romans and Arabs.

- The Knights of the Order of St John, founded before the First Crusade (1099) arrived in 1534, after King Charles of Spain donated the island to them.
Malta

- The earliest members of the Order came from throughout Europe and were of noble birth. Its distinctive emblem the Cross of Malta, whose eight points represent the Beatitudes, and also 8 ‘langues’ of the order.

- Eight pointed cross - First mini EU?

- An annual feudal tax was paid to the Kingdom of Sicily, though it was largely symbolic, that included a "Maltese falcon."

- Grand Master La Valette strengthened defences and built new capital city (Valletta).
Malta

• The Maltese rebelled against French and it became a British protectorate and a base for the British Mediterranean Fleet in 1800.

• This resulted in the island suffering some of the heaviest bombing of World War II.

• The Island became independent in 1964 and a member of the European Union in 2004.
Malta....

Grand Harbour

Marsamxett Harbour

Fort St Elmo

VALLETTA
Research in Malta
The main hospital, the Sacra Infermeria (Holy Infirmary) was built in 1574 by Grand Master Jean de la Cassiere.

900 beds for male patients who included knights, soldiers, sailors and foreigners.

Maltese patients and slaves were accommodated in hall below.

In 1676, a School of Anatomy and Surgery was set up in the building.

The administration was entrusted to knights of the French Langue.

It is now the Mediterranean Conference Centre.
Malta....
The University of Malta today
The University of Malta today

- Founded in 1777, now 3 miles outside Valletta, a campus University, with separate premises for Medical School and Faculty of Health Sciences at the main teaching hospital.

- 10,000 students including over 750 foreign/exchange students from nearly 80 different countries.
  - **Thirteen faculties**: Architecture & Civil Engineering; Arts; Dental Surgery; Economics, Management & Accountancy; Education; Engineering; Laws; Medicine & Surgery; Science and Theology.
  - **Interdisciplinary institutes and centres**: Agriculture, Baroque Studies, Health Care, Linguistics, Public Administration and Management, Physical Education & Sport, Mediterranean Institute and Edward de Bono Institute for the Design & Development of Thinking; Centre for Communication Technology, European Centre for Gerontology, Centre for Environmental Education and Research.

- A centre on Malta’s sister-island, Gozo, offers part-time courses.
Malta Council for Science and Technology
Malta Council for Science and Technology

Set up in 1988

Scope: Science, Technology, Research & Innovation

Responsibilities:
- National R&I Strategic Plan
- EU Policy Initiatives
- FP7 National Contact Organisation
- National RTDI Funding Agency
- Science Popularisation

Staff (FT and PT): 35, April 2011.
Malta

Malta Council for Science and Technology,
Villa Bighi, Kalkara

Fort St Angelo
National Strategic Plan

Vision:
“Research and innovation are at the heart of the Maltese economy to support value-added growth and wealth”.

Mission
“Building and sustaining of an R&I enabling framework”.

• Seven strategic principles addressed through 66 recommendations.
Overview of actions undertaken - 1

• Boosting HR in S&T and increasing researcher numbers –
  • STEPS (€10 million ESF project) and MGSS schemes (approx €466,000 annually) have increased PhDs

• Approximately €28 million in new or upgrading of research infrastructures at the University of Malta.

• €15 million in a Life Sciences Centre strategically positioned to combine research, innovation and higher education aspects.

• Science popularization campaigns.
Overview of actions undertaken - 2

- Incentives package for industry (including grants and tax incentives).
- University Trust Fund set up.
- Pursuit of collaboration with international scientific organizations including possible access to research infrastructures.
- Awareness raising on the importance of patents.
- Financial support for researchers to participate in brokerage events.
- Increase in funding of the national R&I programme.
## The New R&I Strategic Plan 2011-2020

### - principles -

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<th>An ecosystem approach to R&amp;I</th>
<th>Smart specialisation</th>
<th>Grand Challenges</th>
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<td>• Supporting innovation in its widest sense.</td>
<td>• Identifying and investing in specific niches.</td>
<td>• Alignment with and capitalisation on European approach of using research investments to address societal challenges.</td>
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<td>• Ensuring linkages and continuity of support from one stage to the next.</td>
<td>• Building critical mass, excellence and research competitiveness.</td>
<td>• Strive towards an analogous model supporting the alignment of national challenges to national research and innovation efforts.</td>
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<td>• Ensuring the right framework conditions are in place.</td>
<td>• Balancing advantages and risks of this approach.</td>
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Where is research in Malta going?

17 indicators of the innovation process covering
• Human resources
• Creation of new knowledge
• Transmission and application of new knowledge
• Innovation finance, output and markets
Where is research in Malta going?

Challenges:

- Lack of human resources in S&T
- Significant R&D funding lacking
- Low innovation activities in SME’s
There should be no borders between industrial and academic research, the former working on products and solutions for tomorrow, the latter for the day after tomorrow....
Fungus Rock
Thank you