

Modern Diplomacy for Small States

Course Location: Malta

Dates: 30th September – 9th October 2015

Application deadline: 5th August 2015.

Organised by:

DiploFoundation

Sponsored by:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Malta

Commonwealth Secretariat



The Commonwealth

DIPLO



MINISTERU TA' L-AFFARIJET
BARRANIN

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Government of Malta

Training course information

Background

DiploFoundation is a non-profit organisation based in Malta, with offices in Geneva and Belgrade. In June 2006, Diplo was granted Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Diplo also plays an important role in a number of global networks, including the Global Knowledge Partnership, the International Forum on Diplomatic Training, and the European Diplomatic Training Initiative.

DiploFoundation is pleased to announce the 7th occasion of the workshop Modern Diplomacy for Small States which focuses on the current diplomatic challenges and organisational needs of small states, engaging as speakers experienced diplomats who have first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing small states and how these challenges have been dealt with in Malta.

Objectives

The workshop is designed to encourage interaction between participants and speakers. More specific objectives are covered in the topic description of each module. In summary, participants will:

- recognise the importance of branding to their nation state and discover ways in which they can increase their nation's competitiveness through branding.
- explore the strengths and weaknesses involved in using Honorary Consuls and learn of the sensitive issues and experiences involved in Consular Affairs.
- consider the scope and thrust of Commonwealth diplomacy
- fully appreciate the importance of protocol in diplomatic relations
- appreciate and understand the bargaining powers of the negotiator.
- a hands-on experience from a member of the CHOGM taskforce relating to the upcoming CHOGM hosted in Malta, 2015.

Dates, venue and organisation

The workshop will take place in Malta from 30 September - 9 October, 2015, organised by DiploFoundation, and sponsored by the Government of Malta and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC).

Target participants

The workshop is intended primarily for professionals holding senior/middle management positions within a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other departments dealing with the foreign affairs of small states. Given the institution-building focus of the programme, participants should be in the position to implement in their respective ministries and government departments the skills and knowledge acquired during the workshop.

Language of instruction

The course will be conducted in English, and all participants are expected to have a good working knowledge of the language.

Resources and methodology

Training will consist of a combination of speakers, participant presentations, and role play/simulations. The programme includes a strong skills-improvement component consisting of hands-on, practical simulation exercises. Content is drawn from current best practices in the area of negotiations, diplomatic protocol, public speaking, and consular services, among others.

By sharing their experiences, participants will benefit from the comparison of their national experience with that of other small states.

Participants' presentations

As part of the programme, participants are asked to prepare a short presentation about their country (5 minutes) which may include challenges faced by their country, or experiences that helped overcome a challenge. (PPP maybe used, but only picture images)

Prior to each session, participants will be asked to introduce themselves and share with the group/speaker any experiences that they might have had, relevant to the topic.

Certificates

Participants who complete the entire workshop will be presented with a certificate jointly issued by the DiploFoundation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Malta, and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

Training schedule

Date: Wednesday, 30th September

Time: 09:00 – 10:00

Welcome and Introduction to the programme.

Time: 10:00 - 12:30

Topic: Small States

Speaker: Dr Alex Sceberras Trigona (special envoy to the Prime Minister and Permanent Representative to the WTO)

Description: TBA

Time: 14:30 – 15:30

Topic: Introduction to the online classroom (Environment and Climate Change Diplomacy.)

Facilitator: Mr Patrick Borg

Coordinator: Ms Sylvana Busuttil

Time: 15:30 – 17:30

Participants Presentations

Facilitator: Ms Sylvana Busuttil

Description:

The Facilitator will discuss the objectives of the programme and participants will give a short presentation on their country (5mins).

Date: Thursday, 1st October

Time: 9:00 – 12:30

Topic: Persuasion

Speaker: Dr Biljana Scott

Description: In order to survive in a competitive world, small states need to tell a 'winning story' about themselves. This session looks at ways to project a strong image, reverse negative branding and otherwise frame and reframe one's national interests. Exercises include verbal and visual spin.

Time: 14:30 – 17:30

Topic: The language of diplomacy

Speaker: Dr Biljana Scott

Description: This session promotes language awareness as a means of improving the skills of opinion shapers. Close attention is paid to case studies of treaties, presidential speeches, public announcements, government advertising and media materials in order to link theoretical discussion to practical examples.

Date: Friday, 2nd October

Time: 9:00 – 12:30

Topic: Competiveness through nation branding: The case of island states

Speaker: Dr Nadia Theuma

Description: A nation brand comprises the images and reputation that a particular country elicits in someone's mind. This three-hour interactive session will discuss the importance of branding for Island States and how they can increase their competitiveness through nation branding. The session is divided into three parts (1) the definition of brand and competitive identity; (2) national images and the challenges and opportunities they afford for small states; and (3) how to put competitive identity into practice.

Time: 14:00 – 17:30

Topic: Forum Theatre

Facilitator: Kathleen Parsons and Matthew Bugeja

Description: A three hour workshop inspired by Augusto Boal's Forum Theatre. This experience will help provide an insight on how different individuals tackle diverse situations. Moreover the space allocated will provide an excellent opportunity for the participants to be more aware of their decisions and actions.

(Please come in comfortable attire and prepare yourself for a dynamic session).

Date: Saturday, 3rd October: Free Day

Date: Sunday, 4th October

Time: 9:30 – 13:00

Topic: Diplomatic Protocol

Speaker: Mr Olaph Terribile

Description: An overview of the main concerns of protocol, with simulation exercises on ceremonies, seating, invitations, name cards, handshakes, dress code, body language, and more. The importance of protocol as a common code of conduct between different cultures and languages is emphasised, and the use of breaches of protocol as a form of diplomatic signalling is explored. Simulation exercises are included

Time: 14:30 – 17:30

Topic: Diplomatic protocol

Lecturer: Mr Olaph Terribile

Description: Continuation from the morning session

Date: Monday 5th October

Time: 9:30 – 10:00

Topic: Welcome to the MFA by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (TBC)

Time: 10:15 -12:15

Topic: Consular Affairs

Speaker: Mr Olaph Terribile

Description: Every Foreign Ministry aims to deliver high-quality consular services to its nationals around the world. With more of our citizens living and working overseas, and as the number of those travelling abroad on business or on holiday increases each year, the subsequent demand for consular services continues to increase significantly. The increased threats from international terrorism, natural disasters, pandemics, and political upheavals around the world, are just some of the occurrences threatening the safety of our citizens abroad. Such occurrences call for a greater effort to be made in our contingency planning, including effective communication with the travelling public.

Against this background we need to identify, clarify, and focus on our priorities, so that our consular department can have the necessary resources and expertise to respond to any eventual crisis. Most governments provide consular services of some sort to their citizens but they do not all provide the same services, or services of the same standard. The primary focus of this course is to highlight some of the consular services provided by a Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The workshop will identify how Foreign Ministries respond to consular crisis, and how best to provide consular services to our nationals.

Time: 14:00 – 17:30

Topic: Commonwealth Diplomacy: Commonwealth Secretariat's Diplomatic work and role

Speakers: Dr Michael Frendo and Commonwealth Secretariat Representative.

Description: Dr Michael Frendo draws on his experience as the former Chair of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group and a representative of the Commonwealth Secretariat will talk about the role of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Both speakers will discuss the relevance of the Commonwealth, whether a group of countries brought together by a colonial past still has any relevance today and importance for tomorrow?

Time: 19:00

Topic: Across the cultures

Description: Sharing traditions, cultures, food and beverage

Date: Tuesday, 6th October

Time: 9:00 – 12:30

Topic: Introduction to negotiations

Speaker: Patrick Tabone

Description: A case study of Malta's EU accession negotiations. The session considers content, linkage, timing, building a team of experts and generalists, balancing demands and concessions, reconciling EU demands with Maltese traditions, keeping the public informed and on-side.

Time: 14:00 – 17:30

Topic: Negotiations simulation exercise

Speaker: Patrick Tabone

Description: Simulation Exercise – Continuation of the morning session

Date: Wednesday, 7th October

Time: 9:00 – 12:30

Topic: The Commonwealth and its Heads of Government biennial meeting

Speaker: Giovanni Buttigieg

Description: The Commonwealth is an association of 53 countries, comprising 1/3 of the world population. Every two years, it brings together heads of government from some of the poorest and richest, smallest and richest countries for a rather unique encounter. What is its significance? How is it organised?

Time: 14:30 – 17:30

Topic: Environment and Climate Change Diplomacy. Environment and Climate Change

Speaker: Dr Katharina Hone

Description: Participants will engage in a highly interactive online chat on 'Environment and Climate Change Diplomacy.' The chat is the culmination of a week of asynchronous online learning using Diplo's online learning platform. By this time participants will have gained a good grasp of the emergence of environmental issues on the global agenda, sustainable development, 'new diplomacy,' the intricacies of climate change diplomacy, the UNFCCC process, and the opportunities and challenges for small states in this process. The chat will focus on the application of these points to current events, most notably the upcoming climate change negotiations in Paris in December.

Date: Thursday, 8th October

Time: 9:00 - 12:30

Topic: Speaking in Public

Speaker: Ms Mary Murphy

Description: Speaking in public is a necessary skill in today's very public environment. This session will recap on basic presentation skills, eye contact, building a rapport with the audience, marrying gestures to words, and offer tips to deliver concise, effective presentations. Participants will get the chance to deliver an impromptu speech; they will be given effective feedback and coached in how to deliver effective feedback.

Time: 14:30 – 17:30

Continuation of the morning session

19:30 –

Protocol Dinner Simulation

Presentation of Certificates

Date: Friday, 9th October

Time: 9:00 – 12:30

Topic: Challenges facing small missions

Speaker: Mr Mike Guy

Description: Participants will be provided with an overview of how small states can effectively use their overseas missions to advance their national interests and how to draw on available resources to maximize these efforts. Through examining case studies of joint representation and small state offices, participants will be encouraged to identify solutions facing Small States in establishing effective Diplomatic Representation by drawing on the programme's discussions around the role of the Commonwealth Secretariat, the use of Development and Technical Assistance, E-diplomacy and the appointment of an Honorary Consul network.

Time: 14:30

Wrap up Session

Free Afternoon

******Lunch breaks are from 13:00 – 14:30**

******Coffee Breaks are from 15:30 – 15:45**

Disclaimer

The organisers reserve the right to change the course content at its discretion, or to cancel the course entirely should there be an insufficient number of participants.

Sponsorship information

Selected applicants will receive a scholarship funded by the Malta Commonwealth Third Country Training Programme and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

The scholarship will cover the following costs:

- Participants' workshop fees
- Accommodation for up to 11 nights; breakfast; lunch (course days only) at the designated course venue; and local transport
- Sponsored applicants will also receive a one-time partial subsistence allowance of €200.
- No additional costs will be covered by the Government of Malta, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation or DiploFoundation

Participants, their employers, and/or nominating ministries will be responsible for any additional costs, including:

- Travel to and from Malta.
- Fees and arrangements for visas to enter Malta.
- Funds to cover sundry costs (telephone & Internet usage; laundry costs, drinks at the bar, etc). As a recommendation, €20 per day should be allowed.
- Accommodation and living expenses beyond 11 nights.

Applications and nominations

In order to qualify for sponsorship, applicants must be nominated by the employing department/ministry/organisation.

Applicants are expected to hold the relevant entry documentation. Prospective participants are advised to apply for a Schengen Visa through their respective foreign office as soon as they receive confirmation of their place on the training course. Note that it can take up to SIX WEEKS to secure a visa and may also involve travelling to another country to apply/pick up the visa.

To apply for a sponsorship, nominated applicants must complete the application form, which maybe also found on the Commonwealth website www.thecommonwealth.org/mctctp, and send it to:

EMAILED DOCUMENTS ARE ACCEPTED – PLEASE DO NOT SEND BY COURIER POST

Institution Director

Dr Jovan Kurbalija, DiploFoundation, through:

Institution Coordinator

Ms. Sylvana Bugeja

Institution Name

DiploFoundation

Institution Address

Ground Floor, Anutruf, Hriereb Street, Msida, MSD1675, MALTA

Mobile No: 00356 99806858

Institution Fax: 00356 21 315574

Institution Email: s.bugeja@diplomacy.edu

Application Deadline

5 August, 2015

Application review and response

Applications will be assessed by DiploFoundation together with a representative of the Malta Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in consultation with the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation.

Confirmation of acceptance will be sent to successful applicants by 19 August, 2015.

Self-funded applications

Interested persons who do not qualify for sponsorship under the Malta Commonwealth Third Country Training Programme may also apply to participate in this course. They will be charged a fee of €1500 to cover course participation fees, course materials, lunches and coffee breaks. Any further costs (travel, accommodation, etc.) will be the responsibility of the participant.

Those interested in self-funded applications should send a C,V by email including a letter of intent to the contact person, details below.

Institution Coordinator: Sylvana Bugeja

email: s.bugeja@diplomacy.edu

Course organisers

DiploFoundation

Website: www.diplomacy.edu

DiploFoundation is a non-profit organisation based in Malta, with offices in Geneva and Belgrade. In June 2006, Diplo was granted Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Diplo also plays an important role in a number of global networks, including the Global Knowledge Partnership, the International Forum on Diplomatic Training and the European Diplomatic Training Initiative.

Several key concepts underlie DiploFoundation's activities:

- Innovation: Diplo is a leading training organisation in the field of diplomacy and international relations today because of its commitment to innovation in online learning.
- Quality: Diplo strives to offer high-quality educational experiences and materials, equally attractive and useful for individuals and institutions in developed and developing countries.
- Personal touch: The personal dedication of the Diplo team and the recognition of each learner as an individual are always highly rated in surveys, informal reviews, and feedback from course participants and collaborators.
- Development cooperation: Diplo has an ongoing commitment to strengthening diplomatic practice and international relations for a range of stakeholders in developing countries in particular.
- Contemporary focus: Diplo's education, training, and capacity-building initiatives focus on topics of relevance to today's diplomatic scene, whether these are new areas of study, or traditional topics examined through a contemporary lens.
- Theory to practice: Diplo's activities aim to bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and practical solutions; this is done through close links with real communities of practice and through studying real-life problems.
- Multi-stakeholder approach: Diplomacy is no longer the exclusive domain of states and diplomats; Diplo promotes the involvement of new players, including NGOs, academia, the private sector, and the media.

Course sponsors

The Commonwealth Secretariat

www.thecommonwealth.org

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 53 countries that support each other and work together towards shared goals in democracy and development.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is the primary intergovernmental organisation within the Commonwealth and carries out programmes based on mandates set by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their biennial summit. The Secretariat works as a trusted partner for all Commonwealth people as:

- a force for peace, democracy, equality and good governance;
- a catalyst for global consensus-building; and
- a source of assistance for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation promotes sustainable development through comprehensive work programmes that maximise available resources to benefit member countries. It uses comparative advantages to assist members to achieve Commonwealth priorities and the MDGs. These comparative advantages include common values, a diverse membership, large number of small states, similarity of judicial and public administration systems, Pan-Commonwealth networks, and regular meetings of heads of government and ministers.

The Commonwealth provides relevant and cost-effective technical assistance quickly, flexibly, and sensitively to member countries. It promotes South–South cooperation as an integral part of the provision of development assistance and advice. Assistance is provided to member countries without the stringent conditions of some donors, and addresses some of the strategic gaps that large donors may overlook.

Thirty-two out of the 53 Commonwealth member countries are small states who are geographically small or have populations of less than 1.5 million. These states face particular challenges such as physical remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, limited institutional capacity, limited diversification, vulnerable to external economic changes, need of access to foreign capital, and poverty. As a result, more than 60% of Commonwealth technical assistance is directed towards small states.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Malta

www.mfa.gov.mt

The Malta Cooperation Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maltese Government provides the means for Maltese professionals to share their experience and skills with participants from developing countries and small states with limited human resources. Having attained a high degree of competence in human resources over the years, and being fully supportive of the Commonwealth's efforts in the field of development training, Malta has embarked on the Third Country Training Programme. Under this scheme, specialised training has been delivered in the fields of information technology, banking and finance in small states, competitiveness for small states, port management, insurance management, and diplomacy.

The Malta Commonwealth Third Country Training Programme marks the transition from technical assistance to mutual co-operation between Malta and its Commonwealth partners. This programme is jointly funded and administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Commonwealth Secretariat, and was formally established in 1995 with the objective of training senior to middle level personnel from developing countries of the Commonwealth.

Travel and accommodation

Accommodation

All sponsored participants will be accommodated on a bed-and-breakfast basis, with lunches provided on workshop days at the designated course venue. Please specify on the application form whether you have any particular access, dietary, or other special requirements.

Flights

Travel to and from Malta is the responsibility of the training participants, their employers, and/or nominating ministries.

Airport transfers

Participants are requested to provide DiploFoundation with their flight details to and from Malta as early as possible, so that airport transfers may be arranged. Organisers will be using MaltaTransfer.Com to take care of the transfers.

Please send your flight details to:

Institution Coordinator: *Ms. Sylvana Bugeja*
Telephone: *00356 99806858*
Fax: *00356 21 315574*
Email: s.bugeja@diplomacy.edu

Insurance

In order to qualify for a visa, participants are required to arrange adequate overseas travel, accident, and health insurance before departing for Malta to cover them during their stay.

The organisers cannot be responsible for any medical or other emergency expenses which may arise during the participant's stay in Malta.

Visas

Visa fees and arrangements are the sole responsibility of training participants, their employers, and/or nominating ministries.

Malta forms part of the Schengen area and follows the Schengen Convention's common rules of entry that apply to all member states.

Participants are advised to check their visa requirements through www.mfa.gov.mt and apply for the required visa as early as possible after receiving confirmation of their place on the training course.

Participants who intend to stop over in a third country on their way to Malta are also advised to obtain the required transit visa/s before leaving their country of origin.

Logistics while in Malta

Geography

Malta is the largest of the Maltese Islands, which are located in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, about 100km south of Sicily and 300km off North Africa. Its total area is 320 km² and the total number of inhabitants is around 400 000, of whom about 10% live on the island of Gozo.

Climate

The climate is typically Mediterranean, with hot, dry summers, warm and sporadically wet autumns, and short, cool winters with adequate rainfall.

Currency

Malta's currency is the euro (€) which is divided into 100 cents.

Language

The official languages of Malta are Maltese and English. Most Maltese speak English, and Italian is also widely spoken.

Customs

Personal belongings and clothing intended for own use is not liable to duty. The duty free allowance for adults is 200 cigarettes, one litre each of spirits and wine, and a reasonable quantity of perfume.

Banks

Banks are usually open from 0830 to 1330 hrs, Monday to Friday and till 1130 hrs on Saturday. Foreign exchange facilities are also available round the clock at Malta International Airport and at a number of automated teller machines situated in the major commercial and touristic areas. Major credit cards are accepted by most hotels and restaurants as well as by a good number of retail outlets.

Shopping

Shops are usually open between 0900 and 1900 hrs, with a lunch break between 1300 hrs and 1600 hrs. In commercial areas frequented by tourists, however, most shops remain open until around 2200 hrs. Major credit cards, traveller's cheques and euro cheques are accepted at most leading shops and restaurants.

Restaurants

There is a wide variety of restaurants in Sliema, St Julians, Valletta, and other tourist areas, ranging from fast-food outlets to modestly priced and more expensive restaurants. Food in Malta is often influenced by Italian cuisine, but there are quite a few restaurants which serve oriental food.

Public transport

Malta's public transport system offers a cheap and efficient way of touring the Island. For more information please ask at the reception desk or visit its local website. <http://www.publictransport.com.mt>

Medical care

Malta enjoys a high level of medical care, and there are several public and private hospitals and clinics on the islands.

Electricity

The electrical supply is 240 volts, single phase, 50 cycles. The 13 amp, three-pin rectangular sockets are used in Malta (UK style). Kindly remember to bring along an appropriate adaptor for your appliances.

For further information about your stay in Malta, please contact:

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Mobile No: *00356 99806858*
Fax: *00356 21 315574*
Email: s.bugeja@diplomacy.edu