

# **THE DEVELOPMENT OF UN/SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MEGA-EVENTS: TOWARDS VALLETTA 2018**

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## *Abstract*

Culture is increasingly regarded as a source for regeneration. It has been proven that cultural large-scale events can allow for regeneration because they can generate different types of impacts. Mega-events, such as the European Capital of Culture (ECoC), have been often used to regenerate cities often through infrastructural investment takes place once a city is awarded the ECoC title. This paper aims to look at the building of large-scale buildings versus cultural quarter developments within the ECoC concept. An analysis of both types of developments in connection with mega-events.

Valletta, Malta's capital city, is a candidate for the title in parallel with a Dutch city in 2018. An overview of the Valletta 2018 bid will be provided, including an analysis of how the city shall be preparing itself in the period leading up to 2018 in relation to the development of infrastructure.

## *1. Introduction*

The role of culture in regeneration is increasingly playing an important part in government agendas as culture is used by cities in regeneration projects. Mega-events are often used to regenerate cities and their cultural product is a tool to invest in capital infrastructure. Such investment is not always sustainable as some cities plan such development exclusively for a single event, without considering the impact in the long-term.

The European Capital of Culture (ECoC) was originally created as a celebration of established cultural cities and has developed into an opportunity for cities to create urban, cultural and social regeneration. Malta's capital city, Valletta, is bidding to host the ECoC title in 2018. The bid will encompass the whole of the Maltese Islands thus spreading investment, activities and events throughout the whole territory.

This paper aims to look at the building of large-scale buildings, including landmark buildings, versus the cultural quarter development, and the benefit

of these in the ECOC concept. An analysis of how Valletta shall be preparing itself in relation to the development of infrastructure will follow.

## *2. Mega-Events in Regeneration*

The concept of regeneration is defined by Evans and Shaw as “the positive transformation of a place that has previously displayed symptoms of physical, social and/or economic decline”<sup>1</sup>. Regeneration helps to improve the quality of life and promote sustainable development incorporating the physical, social and economic well-being of an area<sup>2</sup>.

Cities are increasingly using culture as a tool to regenerate themselves, particularly through the use of events<sup>3</sup>. Events generate a number of impacts, including (1) economic, (2) socio-cultural and (3) environmental impacts, with these being both positive and negative. Mega-events, such as the Olympic Games and the ECoC have become a significant catalyst of urban change. Far from being merely symbolic, the desire to create a world-class image presents an important opportunity for a city’s economic development strategy<sup>4</sup>.

Considerable investment is required for mega-events. Olympic Games require investment in sporting facilities, whereas cultural events require development in cultural infrastructure. Both events require development of the supporting infrastructure and it is assumed that all developments lead to such investment to become part of the legacy for staging such large-scale events. Such events are useful as a tool to generate long-term economic development though the real effects are at times difficult to measure and debatable<sup>5</sup>.

Originally, the ‘European City of Culture’ was created in 1985 with the aim to “bring the people of Europe closer together... (aiming to show that) culture, art and creativity are no less important than technology, commerce and the economy”<sup>6</sup>. From its inception, the title evolved from a celebration

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<sup>1</sup> Evans and Shaw 2004: 4

<sup>2</sup> DCMS 2004; Evans and Shaw 2004

<sup>3</sup> Balsas 2004; Richards and Wilson 2004

<sup>4</sup> Essex & Chalkley 1998; Andranovich, Burbank and Heying 2001

<sup>5</sup> Essex and Chalkley 1998; Hiller 2000

<sup>6</sup> European Communities 2009: 4

of established cultural cities into a tool for cities to regenerate, attract investment and tourism<sup>7</sup>.

### *3. The Development of Infrastructure*

#### *3.1. Capital Expenditure in ECoCs*

Former and future ECoCs mainly focus on achieving (1) sustainable long-term development, (2) urban regeneration, (3) infrastructural development, and (4) social inclusion, besides an (5) increase in visitor numbers. Infrastructure development is crucial in some ECoC cities. The investment in physical infrastructure (cultural and not) is often one of the most important legacies left by ECoC. Besides the upgrading of general infrastructure, such as roads and other networks, the development of often much-needed cultural infrastructure is there to stay<sup>8</sup>.

Capital expenditure associated with ECoC is broadly of three types:

1. New provision and upgrading of cultural capital
2. Urban revitalisation
3. Supporting infrastructure

In their examination of budgets for former ECoCs, Richards and Palmer<sup>9</sup> note three distinctive periods associated with ECoC, with the third and current period being tied to the development of cultural infrastructure. These three periods are defined as follows:

1. 1985-1989 – Expensive Festival – Host cities were major cultural capital cities with an established cultural infrastructure;
2. 1990-2004 – Investment in Cultural Regeneration - ECoC as a tool for cultural and economic development. The title awarded to secondary cities as a tool for development and regeneration and for changing image. Increased development of infrastructure and an increased attention to cultural and social objectives;
3. 2005 Onwards – Investment in Infrastructure – A greater attention to infrastructure spending which often outweighs operational spending, includes the use of structural funding.

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<sup>7</sup> Palmer 2004; Richards and Wilson 2004; European Communities 2009; EC 2010a and b

<sup>8</sup> Palmer 2004

<sup>9</sup> Richards and Palmer 2010

Table 1: ECoCs Operating and Capital Expenditure 2005 - onwards

Year	ECoC City	Operating Budget	Capital Budget
€ in millions			
2005	Cork	13.50	-
2006	Patras	36.00	100.00
2007	Sibiu	16.00	40.00
2007	Luxembourg and the Greater Region	56.00	-
2008	Liverpool	142.00	984.00
2008	Stavanger	37.00	293.00
2009	Linz	65.00	300.00
2009	Vilnius	25.00	442.00
2010	Pecs	37.00	141.00
2010	Essen	48.00	30.00
2010	Istanbul	64.90	-
2011	Turku	55.00	145.00
2011	Tallin	38.00	-
2012	<i>Maribor</i>	<i>57.00</i>	<i>143.00</i>
2012	<i>Guimaraes</i>	<i>41.00</i>	<i>70.00</i>
2013	<i>Marseille</i>	<i>98.00</i>	-
2014	<i>Umea</i>	<i>40.50</i>	<i>690.00</i>

Source: Richards and Palmer, 2010  
 Cities in Italics are future awarded ECoCs

Recent ECoC's capital expenditure budgets (where available) varies from a maximum of € 984 million in Liverpool to a minimum of € 30 million in Essen (2010). As depicted in Table 1, not all cities have catered for infrastructure development. Nonetheless, research shows that only a few ECoC organisations take the responsibility of managing directly capital projects. Budgets are a reflection of different priorities. Development of infrastructure takes place mostly in secondary cities who aim to achieve the ECoC status to regenerate and improve their European image.

Although infrastructural development creates much-needed facilities, development of infrastructure for mega-events often lacks a long-term perspective, mainly in understanding how infrastructure will be used after the event. One of the main risks associated with planning for mega-events includes the creation of 'white elephants' which are too big and which can end up either under-utilised or not utilised at all after the event<sup>10</sup>. Nonetheless, the ECoC is not the only large-scale event to create issues in infrastructural development. Cities and governments organising the Olympic Games also commit to significant investments in infrastructure, though many former Olympic developments have become 'white elephants', ending up unutilised or enjoyed only by the few<sup>11</sup>. Towards the London 2012

<sup>10</sup> Jago et al 2010

<sup>11</sup> Owen 2005 and Macrury and Poynter 2008

Olympics and following the problems incurred with the development of the Millennium Dome, it was stressed that there should be no 'white elephants'. The Olympics will be hosted in the East End of London, an area which required regeneration and according to the original plan, some venues will be re-used in and others would be reduced in size. A deal to sell the new Olympic Stadium to West Ham and Newham Council collapsed and the stadium will remain in public ownership and possibly leased after the Games, meaning the new building is at risk of becoming a white elephant. What will actually happen to the new Olympic infrastructure after the event is yet to be seen<sup>12</sup>.

### 3.2. *The Development of Landmark Buildings & Cultural Quarters*

"Important buildings have always been tools for expression; they often reflect a story and are used to demonstrate power and the capacity of a society to meet change"<sup>13</sup>.

The development of landmark buildings is often used to promote regeneration in decaying areas<sup>14</sup>. The construction of landmark buildings often takes place through the design of famous architects, which helps to attract increased visitor attention. However, there is a concern that cities are increasingly 'copying' or 'borrowing' ideas making experiences increasingly similar and reducing the element of creativity and innovation, thus losing the feeling of authenticity<sup>15</sup>.

In contrast to the concept of developing landmark buildings is the development of what is often referred to as the 'Barcelona model'. Barcelona sought to achieve sustainable regeneration by using the 1992 Olympic Games. The games acted as a catalyst for urban change and transformation and renewal. Development included investment in road and transport infrastructure, telecommunications, tourist accommodation, environmental infrastructure and the rejuvenation of a run-down coastal area. Barcelona managed to invest in well-planned infrastructure which was used in the long-term serving for tourism and place-making purposes<sup>16</sup>. Contrarily to other Spanish cities, like Bilbao with the Guggenheim Museum and Valencia with its City of Arts and Sciences, Barcelona did not choose to be associated with

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<sup>12</sup> Mail Online 2011

<sup>13</sup> Felice 2009

<sup>14</sup> Baniotopoulou 2000

<sup>15</sup> Baniotopoulou 2000; Richards and Wilson 2004

<sup>16</sup> Essex and Chalkley 1998; WTO and ETC 2005; Macrury and Poynter 2008; Brunet 2010; Jago et al. 2010

one building but looked at an overall picture of sustainable long-term investment and regeneration, which 20 years later is still ongoing.

The use of the creative industries and the concept of innovation can be used to showcase the uniqueness and creative aspect of a city. The increasing importance of creative cities has also been highlighted by the President of the European Commission (EC). Jose' Manuel Barroso states that cities have a capital of culture and creativity and a combination of both can help achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. Through the ECoC title a combination of culture and creativity must be used to develop and regenerate with a long-term focus, enabling economic, cultural and social growth<sup>17</sup>.

The development of cultural quarters has often been used to regenerate cities and specific areas in a sustainable manner with a long-term perspective<sup>18</sup>. Design, food and entertainment can be used to create a cultural quarter and allow for urban regeneration, re-creating a vibrant and interesting city space and allowing for regeneration and re-use of abandoned building, thus creating development of a sustainable form of cultural infrastructure.

An analysis of the plans for infrastructure development for Valletta 2018 will now follow, looking at the development of both large-scale, landmark buildings and the development of cultural quarters.

#### *4. Valletta 2018*

"Valletta, like most European cities, is a place to be enjoyed, a place for event, a place for celebration...the walls of Valletta are static but its boundaries are constantly changing. The separation between the fortified towns around the harbours and the villages that dotted the Maltese landscape, is no more"<sup>19</sup>.

##### *4.1. The Valletta Context*

A Maltese city is designated to host the ECoC title in 2018 together with a city from the Netherlands. The Maltese Islands, situated in the heart of the Mediterranean, are a bridge between Europe and Northern Africa and the

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<sup>17</sup> WTO and ETC 2005; Euractiv 2010

<sup>18</sup> McCarthy 2005

<sup>19</sup> Felice 2009

Maltese city to be awarded the ECoC title will be one of the southernmost ECoC's ever.

Malta, a member of the EU since 2004, has a total population of 417,608 as at 2010 over an area of 315.12 square kilometers<sup>20</sup>. Tourism is one of the major pillars of the Maltese economy and in 2010 more than 1.3 million tourists visited Malta. The Market Profile Survey, compiled by the Malta Tourism Authority's (MTA) shows that 13.5% of tourists who visited Malta and Gozo between 2006 and 2010 were interested in Malta's culture and heritage<sup>21</sup>.

Valletta, the capital city built in 1566, is the governmental and administrative centre of the Maltese Islands. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, visited by 92.4% of tourists coming to Malta, Valletta was originally built to protect residents from wars and threats on a peninsula site. Nonetheless, with a total residential population of 6,309, the population of Valletta makes up just 1.5% of the total for the Maltese Islands<sup>22</sup>.

#### *4.2. The V18 Bid*

The bidding process for Malta's ECoC was officially launched in December 2010. Following this, the Local Councils of Malta and Gozo signed a Charter whereby it has been agreed that all local councils shall support Valletta to become the ECoC in 2018. Following the signing of the Charter, the Valletta Local Council together with the Local Councils Association have established the Valletta 2018 Foundation (V18 Foundation) to deliver and submit the 'V18' bid, incorporating all 68 Local Councils, aiming to develop and improve cultural life in the Maltese Islands and implement actions identified in the bid should this be successful. V18's bid was officially presented on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

V18's vision looks to set in motion a process of culture-led regeneration to develop Valletta and the Maltese Islands as capital and cultural centre, creating an environment of exchange by enabling ideas, dialogue and creativity to flow freely. V18's mission is to (i) construct a visible culture by sustaining a tangible cultural infrastructure which supports a long-term legacy, (ii) develop a virtual culture with a sound technological

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<sup>20</sup> NSO 2007; NSO 2011

<sup>21</sup> MTA 2010

<sup>22</sup> NSO 2008; MTA 2010

structure resulting in effective forms of communication and (iii) foster a visceral culture to enable a debating society<sup>23</sup>.

#### 4.3. *Malta's National Cultural Policy*

"Planning for the cultural infrastructure required (both physical and organisational) is an immediate concern and will form a fundamental part of the Maltese submission for the European Capital of Culture project."<sup>24</sup>

The NCP, launched in 2011, lays out the need to plan for the required cultural infrastructure development by transforming, "cultural and creative activity into the most dynamic facet of Malta's socio-economic life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century".<sup>25</sup>

Planning for the cultural infrastructure is an immediate concern and forms a fundamental part of the V18 application. The ECoC is the vehicle to implement most measures of the NCP and this vision is encapsulated by V18's proposal to transform and regenerate the cultural and urban environment. The NCP makes clear recommendations for the development of cultural infrastructure projects that promote creative excellence. V18 supports these measures and gives them attention as it is believed that the ECoC is an opportunity to make up for the current weaknesses in cultural infrastructure in Valletta and Malta.

The three main cultural infrastructure requirements mentioned within the NCP are:

1. The identification of a site and implementation for a museum space for modern and contemporary art;
2. The development of a large-scale and versatile performance space within the wider context of major urban redevelopment measures;
3. The foundation of a Centre of Architecture and the Built Environment, within the context of a national architectural strategy, to bring architecture and urban planning issues closer to the public.

V18 will take the above recommendations on board and aims to encourage and work towards the development of these requirements, looking at transforming these concepts into the flagship projects for V18.

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<sup>23</sup> Valletta 2018 Foundation 2011

<sup>24</sup> Parliamentary Secretariat for Tourism, the Environment and Culture 2011: 28

<sup>25</sup> Parliamentary Secretariat for Tourism, the Environment and Culture 2011: 9

With the priorities for cultural infrastructure mentioned by the NCP in mind, V18 is therefore preparing for a culture-led regeneration project to make the benefits of the ECoC project last beyond the scope of 2018.

#### *4.4. V18's Strategy for Cultural Infrastructure*

V18 is working on the implementation of a strategy moving towards an integrated programme for cultural infrastructure. This also includes open thematic workgroups, one of which is dedicated to cultural infrastructure, which the V18 Foundation has created.

The Foundation's strategy for cultural infrastructure includes:

- Assessing the requirements of the cultural infrastructure projects recommended by the NCP, identifying how the existing buildings may be revitalised to provide new projects, that leads to the creation of a permanent and tangible legacy for the ECoC;
- Reporting of current cultural infrastructure projects undertaken by a range of organisations and compiling an inventory of existing cultural infrastructure, with special emphasis on local areas outside Valletta;
- Identifying areas for creative clusters and cultural quarters, to provide adequate physical spaces within an existing urban context;
- Exploit the unique potential of external public and shared spaces as a major provider of venues for the cultural programme;
- Identifying optimal governance for the management of cultural infrastructure projects, coordinating with other plans and strategies<sup>26</sup>.

#### *4.5. The Current Status of the Infrastructural Programmes*

As a preliminary study to understand Valletta and Malta's needs for cultural infrastructure, the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the ECoC (IMC\_ECoC) one of the Governors of the Valletta 2018 Foundation, compiled a report of infrastructure projects taking place. This report showed that government is committed to a substantial investment on cultural infrastructure, ranging between € 150 and 200 million.

As a continuation to this report, a further assessment was compiled. Valletta is currently undergoing a rapid and substantial physical change and transformation. A series of projects are being planned and others are in a

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<sup>26</sup> Valletta 2018 Foundation 2011

state of execution, giving the impression that Valletta is currently in a phase of work-in-progress. This creates practical inconveniences, but also helps to create a positive feeling that things are happening and that a new future is being carved for the city.

Nonetheless, the main challenge for V18 is to set up cultural infrastructure which will be of sustainable use to Valletta and Malta's citizens by 2018 and beyond. Currently, the city is in a state of decline in terms of population and dynamism. A strong cultural infrastructure fabric would attract creative minds to live and interact with the city and its citizens, rethinking and re-using existing buildings and constructing new ones to revitalise the socio-economic realities of Maltese citizens. Furthermore, V18 will also look at regeneration through supporting the development and professionalisation of home grown artists, enabling the development of cultural quarters, equipping citizens with the necessary creative tools for them to tap into the vast opportunities available.

The report compiled by the V18 Foundation has showed that infrastructural projects are mainly split into three main categories. These consist of cultural infrastructure projects, urban transformation projects and supporting infrastructure projects. Besides cultural infrastructure projects, which look at the development of sites for arts & culture, creative clusters, re-development of museums and cultural heritage sites and the development of interactive centres, V18 also looks at urban transformation projects, which are aimed at covering projects which allow for accessibility and urban renewal, the re-integration of symbolic features within the Greater Valletta context and the re-development of waterfronts and landscapes. Given that Malta has already basic infrastructure in place, including an international airport and cruise passenger terminal, the supporting infrastructure projects are aimed at improving the facilities to support the overall quality of life, including enhancements to the transportation network, improvements to educational facilities and development of environmental management facilities. A full description of on-going and planned projects is found in Tables 2 to 4. All projects described are being carried out by government ministries or government appointed entities. The presented projects currently range from 2011 to 2016 for target completion date. These projects are financed through a combination of government and EU funding, particularly through the use of Structural Funds. Furthermore, given that the current set of Structural Funding expires in 2013, V18 is assessing sources of funding available to sustain the development of further cultural infrastructure required including the budget provided by Structural Funds for the period 2014 – 2020<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>27</sup> Valletta 2018 Foundation 2011

**Table 2: Cultural Infrastructure Projects**

<b>CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	
<i>i. Arts &amp; Culture</i>	<i>iv. Cultural Heritage</i>
<p><b>Valletta City Gate Project</b> - Restoration of the Opera House ruins and rehabilitation into an open-air multi-purpose performance and public - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	<p><b>Archaeological Heritage Conservation Project</b> - The objectives of this project are the preservation, interpretation and accessibility of two World Heritage Sites (Ggantija and Tarxien) and one site on the World Heritage Sites Tentative List (St Paul's Catacombs). Key components are the building of an interpretation centre and landscaping. The project also includes the building of interpretation facilities, landscaping and implementation of conservation measures at the St Paul's Catacombs, and the installation of a protective shelter and a walkway at the Tarxien Temples - <b>Execution stage</b></p>
<p><b>Redevelopment of the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta</b> - The National Culture Policy recommends the identification and proposal of a major project aimed at accommodating a large-scale and versatile performance space within the wider context of major urban redevelopment measures - <b>Concept stage</b></p>	<p><b>Rehabilitation of Roman Baths and Christian Catacombs, Mosta and Mġarr</b> - The project intends to regenerate cultural heritage within the rural landscape. It seeks to develop the unique cultural and natural heritage found within two distinct but neighbouring localities, Mġarr and Mosta. The project intends to study, research, conserve and safeguard two main sites - the Ghajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths in Mġarr and two segments of the Ta' Bistra Paleochristian Catacombs in Mosta. Studies to ensure a better understanding of the sites/areas involved and an understanding of the environmental conservation requirements of the site to ensure long-term accessibility and conservation will occur. It will include the development of Interpretation areas, required accessibility pathways, archaeological covers to protect the mosaics, interpretative aids and visitor facilities - <b>Execution stage</b></p>
<p><b>Postgraduate School for the Performing Arts</b> - To be housed within the Old University Buildings, Valletta - <b>Execution Stage</b></p>	<p><b>Conservation of Hal Saflieni Hypogeum World Heritage Site, Hal Saflieni</b> - The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum Paola is in a delicate state of preservation and, following the project implementation, it would have involved the most detailed study that has been carried out related to any archaeological site in Malta. In addition, this project includes the detailed documentation of the site using cutting edge technology to provide a complete record of the site as an interpretive and analytical tool. This part of the project will see the creation of a 3D digital model of the whole site, recording all its features in high detail for posterity - <b>Execution stage</b></p>
<p><b>Culture Hotspot, Valletta</b> - Located within the heart of Valletta's new centre of political and cultural activity and debate, the new Parliament Building and surrounded by public open space, this hotspot will provide information and booking facilities on cultural activity in the city and Malta with additional space for small scale cultural events - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	
<p><b>Villa Rundle Open-Air Amphitheatre, Gozo</b> - The rehabilitation of the gardens is being achieved through specific interventions aimed at upgrading the garden's infrastructure, through the development of an outdoor stage structure for cultural events, whilst enhancing its landscape and botanical value. This will allow the gardens to effectively contribute to the social and economic development of contemporary Gozo - <b>Nearing completion</b></p>	
<i>ii. Creative Clusters</i>	<i>v. Interactive Centres</i>
<p><b>Fort St. Elmo, Valletta</b> - Restoration and rehabilitation of St Elmo Fort, establishment of a museum and Carafa Bastions Heritage Promenade - <b>Concept stage</b></p>	<p><b>Architecture Centre</b> - The National Culture Policy recommends the foundation of an Architecture Centre, or a Centre for Architecture and the Built Environment, to bring architecture and urban planning issues closer to the general public and at the same time advance the building professions and contribute to an improved design process - <b>To be initiated</b></p>
<p><b>British and Knights Buildings, Dock No 1, Cospicua</b> - Rehabilitation and restoration works of existing historical buildings for cultural and creative enterprise. The public sector has approved a scheme proposal for the two buildings and is preparing a development brief to propose the regeneration of the building. Shortly a Request for Proposals for the private sector will be published - <b>Concept stage</b></p>	<p><b>Interactive Science Centre, Bighi</b> - The aim is to develop a permanent structure where students and the public will be able to immerse themselves in a unique interactive science experience. The objectives of the National Interactive Science Centre are to motivate children and youths to learn science, inspire them to appreciate the value of science and technology in everyday life, bridge the gap between science and the public and contribute towards innovation in the Maltese education system. The centre will cover more than 4,500 square meters in multi-sensory interactive exhibits, presented in a thematic and conceptual manner - <b>Concept stage</b></p>
<p><b>The restoration, conservation and adaptive re-use of Fort St Angelo, Vittoriosa</b> - Fort St Angelo will be accessible to the public as a heritage site with interpretation focusing on its importance within the context in Grand Harbour. The fort will include displays highlighting these themes and a 'visitor centre', exploiting location. Facilities for open air events will be provided - <b>Concept stage</b></p>	
<p><b>Regeneration of Strait Street, Valletta</b> - The proposal intends to create a cluster of cultural activity in this historically very active but now derelict part of the centre of the City. The project shall re-utilise existing spaces and buildings - <b>Planning stage</b></p>	
<i>iii. Museums</i>	
<p><b>Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art</b> - The National Culture Policy recommends the identification of a site and shall implement the necessary work to open a Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art - <b>Concept stage</b></p>	
<p><b>Fortifications Interpretation Centre, Biagio Steps, Valletta</b> - Restoration of this derelict building to be utilised as an Interpretation centre of the fortifications of Malta and Gozo, their planning, how they functioned, how they were connected and how they have been restored - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	
<p><b>Grandmaster's Palace, Valletta</b> - The restoration and rehabilitation of the Grandmaster's Palace, following the moving of the House of Parliament to its new facilities. This shall include the restoration of the building and its artifacts. Once completed, the Palace will offer visitors a new visitor experience - <b>Concept stage</b></p>	
<p><b>Rehabilitation of Market Building (Is-Suq), Valletta</b> - The project will develop this building within its context as an excellent expression of modernism within a baroque city, as an architectural and spatial gem and will be assigned the most suitable sustainable use. Studies are currently being carried out to identify such use - <b>Concept stage</b></p>	

**Table 3: Urban Transformation Projects**

URBAN TRANSFORMATION	
<i>i. Symbols</i>	<i>iii. Waterfronts and Landscaping</i>
<p><b>City Gate, Valletta</b> - Redevelopment of the entrance to Valletta, including improvement to access to the city and landscaping of the historic ditch - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	<p><b>Senglea Waterfront</b> - The rehabilitation of Senglea waterfront from Macina up to Boiler Wharf (French Creek) - <b>Planning Stage</b></p>
<p><b>Vertical Connection, the Barrakka Lift, Valletta</b> - Construction of a 2-car panoramic passenger lift including landscaping at Lascaris Ditch, providing direct access from the Grand Harbour to Valletta's City Centre - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	<p><b>Urban Landscaped Spaces and other facilities in tourism zones</b> - This project includes rehabilitation of the St. Paul's Bay promenade, the development of a public aquarium in Qawra, the creation of a landscaped garden in Pembroke, the creation of a cycle track and the restoration of Madliena Tower - <b>Execution Stage</b></p>
<p><b>St Elmo's Lighthouse, Valletta</b> - The aim of this project is to commission a contemporary, site-specific work of Public Art at Fort St. Elmo, Valletta, to foster and promote a contemporary artistic heritage which increases awareness of innovative artistic work, stimulating a visual and aesthetic legacy in preparation for 2018. The anticipated outcomes are to promote area regeneration, allow for the growth of a culturally-informed public in the run up to 2018 and wider accessibility to contemporary art - <b>Concept stage</b></p>	<p><b>Dock 1, Cottonera</b> - Landscaping at Xatt ir-Risq, Vittoriosa, the rehabilitation of Dock 1, landscaping of San Gwann t'Ghuxa and Dockyard Creek waterfront from Xatt ir-Risq to Senglea. The project intends to catalyse a regeneration programme to the area historically dedicated for use for shipyards and docks, intertwined with residential areas within a complex historic urban context - <b>Execution Stage</b></p>
<p><b>Breakwater Bridge, Valletta</b> - The purpose of the project is to re-create a new steel foot bridge, joining the St Elmo Foreshore to the St. Elmo breakwater. The foot bridge is to be solely used by pedestrians, respecting the original dimensions of the original structure that was in place before being destroyed during World War II - <b>Nearing completion</b></p>	<p><b>Mdina Ditch, Mdina</b> - The Mdina ditch rehabilitation intends to clear the various accretions on site to regenerate the site and to create potential for new uses and provide new links to the city - <b>Planning Stage</b></p>
<p><b>Restoration of fortifications, Valletta, Mdina and Vittoriosa, Malta and the Cittadella, Gozo</b> - This project includes the restoration of the fortification network, and the architectural lighting. Works also include the paving of the Birgu collachio area, and the restoration of facades - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	
<i>ii. Accessibility and Renewal</i>	
<p><b>Tunnel project link, South Street, Valletta</b> - Improved access to the City is of fundamental importance. A tunnel that connects the core of the city to the ditches will provide direct and rapid pedestrian access, reducing the requirement for vehicular traffic through more traditional entrances. The project shall rehabilitate the existing spaces and provide ancillary space for culture and the arts - <b>Concept stage</b></p>	
<p><b>Inter-Harbour Ferry Service</b> - The introduction of new modes of transport as part of Malta's overall transport policy through waterborne facilities. This includes the re-introduction of a regular ferry transport system, linked to the land based bus transport system within the inner harbour region. The plan is to have a service linking the Three Cities and Sliema to Valletta - <b>Planning stage</b></p>	
<p><b>Malta Goes Rural</b> - The project seeks to promote the Maltese rural heritage through the set up of walking trails and small scale infrastructural interventions to improve accessibility in semi-rural, rural and natural areas. The project seeks to strengthen rural tourism in Malta, to mitigate the seasonality problem. A fair distribution of income is foreseen for the local community. The proposed project offers a holistic product which is environmentally and socio-culturally sustainable and that offers potential for the development of small scale arts and cultural events for the community - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	

**Table 4: Supporting Infrastructure Projects**

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE	
<i>i. Transport</i>	<i>iii Environmental Management</i>
<p><b>Improvement of the TEN-T Road Infrastructure</b> - The upgrading of five stretches along the TEN-T Road Network . The upgrading of this road network will improve the quality and efficiency of the Trans-European Transport Road Network in Malta, from north to south at their extremities, including sea connections - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	<p><b>Setting up of the Gozo Waste Treatment and Transfer Facility and a Biological Waste Treatment Plant</b> - The Gozo Waste Treatment and Transfer Facility comprises a controlled facility for the reception, sorting, processing, interim storage and transfer of wastes originating from Gozo and Comino. The dry recyclables will be sorted and bailed prior to further treatment or export. The Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) will be separated into three fractions: the organic fraction, Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) and rejects - <b>Execution stage</b></p>
<p><b>Ferry Terminals, Ċirkewwa(Malta) and Mgarr (Gozo)</b> - Expansion of the port of Ċirkewwa through land reclamation and extension of the breakwater to provide two additional berths and improved sheltering for vessels. Building of two ferry terminals at Mgarr and Ċirkewwa providing segregated connections for foot passengers and vehicles boarding the ferries, sheltered waiting areas for passengers and marshalling areas for vehicles, parking areas, public transport facilities and ancillary facilities - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	<p><b>Establishment of Malta North Facility</b> - The facility will consist of a Mechanical Treatment Plant and a Biological Treatment Plant to be situated within the Ghallis engineered landfill in the North of Malta. The aim is to treat the residual fraction of MSW. The waste entering the site shall be processed to have the organic fraction and the RDF extracted shall be directed from the landfill. The Mechanical Biological Plant (AD) will treat the organic fraction will include a potential for the treatment of the animal manure not managed directly by farmers - <b>Planning stage</b></p>
<i>ii. Education</i>	
<p><b>Redevelopment of the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), Corradino</b> - The project consists in the development of the MCAST Campus, to provide physical resources to match the increased demand for its services and to include other Institutes which currently do not form part of its campus. It shall include the development of ten Institutes and support facilities such as an Administration block, a Library and Resource Centre. The first part of the project will include the Institute of Applied Science, the Institute of Business and Commerce and the Flexi Teaching block - <b>Planning stage</b></p>	<p><b>Establishment of a Hazardous Waste Storage and Treatment Facility</b> - This facility will provide the first centralised storage and treatment facility for hazardous waste in Malta will reduce reliance on exportation of waste, reduce risks associated with dispersed storage of hazardous waste in terms of human health, pollution and fire risks and enhance economic conditions for commercial investment - <b>Planning stage</b></p>
<p><b>ICT Faculty Building, University of Malta, tal-Qroqq</b> - The development of a state-of-the-art building to house the Faculty of ICT at the University of Malta to facilitate teaching, research and basic restorative faculty activities. The building will consist of two sub-buildings linked between them by a smaller service structure. The building will avail itself of alternative and clean energy measures. The building will be integrated within the existing University of Malta environmental and architectural landscape - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	<p><b>Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Closed Landfills and Development of Engineered Landfills</b> - The project is the final stage of the closure and rehabilitation two landfills in Malta and one in Gozo, which were the locations for the deposit of all wastes in Malta and Gozo and were closed in April 2004. Both sites created risks to human health and the environment through combustion of wastes and landfill gas production. Rehabilitation and restoration of landfills will be achieved by the installation of an engineered capping to improve control of gas emissions, reducing rainfall infiltration and control of surface water run-off using a drainage system. This will be followed by restoration planting using indigenous Maltese species and ongoing maintenance and irrigation. New engineered landfills were also currently being developed - <b>Execution stage</b></p>
<p><b>Life Sciences Centre, San Gwann</b> - The construction of an auditorium within a Life Sciences Centre being developed in close proximity to the University of Malta and the Mater Dei General Hospital. The auditorium facility is complemented by exhibition space, meeting rooms and ancillary facilities - <b>Execution stage</b></p>	<p><b>Development of a Family Park in the South of Malta</b> - This project aims to provide an area and promote rural heritage for visitors in the South of Malta. The leisure area will provide recreational space with picnic areas, an information and education centre about agricultural produce and practices and promotion of local arts and crafts. The project also aims to restore and maintain the valley system that runs adjacent to the northern boundary of the proposed leisure area. Storm water control measures. The restoration of the valley will include the removal of alien species and the planting of indigenous species, to encourage re-colonisation of the valley by fauna typical of the habitat - <b>Execution stage</b></p>
	<p><b>Off Shore Wind Farms at Sikka l-Bajda, Malta</b> - A close to shore offshore wind farm along the North-East coast of Malta. The project covers a sea area of around 11 square kilometres with water depths varying between 10 to 35 m. The Sikka l-Bajda wind farm will consist of up to 19 five-Megawatt wind turbines with a maximum generating capacity of 95 MW providing a significant source of clean, renewable electricity that would make a major contribution towards meeting Malta's renewable energy target of 10% by 2020. The development will strengthen Malta's energy production, providing electricity to an equivalent of 45,000 homes from an environmentally friendly and sustainable source - <b>Planning stage</b></p>

5.

## Conclusions

Mega events such as the ECoC and the Olympic Games are increasingly used for regeneration purposes. One of the main priorities of most cities bidding for the ECoC title today is the development of infrastructure, which usually includes the development of cultural infrastructure, urban transformation projects and supporting infrastructure.

There are different approaches to the development of infrastructure. Some cities look at the construction of large-scale, landmark buildings, whilst other cities look at facilitating the development of cultural quarters, though one strategy does not exclude the other.

The Valletta 2018 bid was officially presented in October 2011. The bid covers the whole of the Maltese islands aiming to widespread the impacts generated by the title towards all the Maltese territory. The bid's vision looks at developing an environment of exchange with one of the main pillars being the development of a visible culture through the development of sustainable infrastructure for the long-term. With the recommendations of the recently launched NCP, V18 looks at developing a project and its accompanying infrastructure, within the framework of a culture-led form of regeneration. A combination of both landmark building development and the facilitation of cultural quarters will take place, looking at exploiting Malta's temperate climate and scenic open spaces to show that Valletta is truly a European Capital of Culture.

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