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Successful CITRA in Malta

This year's CITRA in Malta between 16 and 21 November 2009 brought together 250 participants from 91 countries to discuss the theme 'Imagining the twenty first century archivist: new strategies for education and training' The pre-CITRA meetings, and the post-CITRA general assemblies and social events were as important as the main programme. The National Archives of Malta also took the opportunity to launch its new web-site at:
www.nationalarchives.gov.mt
The event gave the sector a big boost amongst the Maltese authorities. As the Hon. Dolores Cristina, the responsible Minister, observed, the initiative by the National Archives was in line with Malta's centuries' old tradition of contribution to the archives sector. She referred to the famous Maltese-born archivist Dom Mauro Inguanez who distinguished himself as archivist of Montecassino in Italy. It was a big challenge for a small national archives to organize. The various events, parallel sessions, socials etc were a large financial and logistical burden. We also managed to get on board the general public by organising the annual public lecture by Maltese archivist Victoria Borg O'Flaherty, who is also the National Archivist of St Kitts & Nevis. The thinking was to bridge the gap between the archival professional community, and the general public which is our main stakeholder. The Flying Reporters' efforts in publicising events to the entire world as they happened were invaluable.
The Speaker of Parliament the Hon. Dr Louis Galea welcomed the delegates on Saturday 21 and expressed his long-term dream that Malta will invest in the building of a state-of-the-art national archives. As ICA President Ian Wilson commented, the international archival community is experiencing an exciting time with challenges in managing electronic records and the interaction at ICA events helps to render the profession more relevant to society.
I would like to thank ICA, the CITRA Bureau, local authorities, the Friends of the National Archives and the National Archives Council and all those who supported us in organising CITRA. Work is now taking place to ensure another successful CITRA in Oslo in 2010. I do appeal to everyone to give their contribution to the international archival community so that we can justify our existence in the competitive environment of the twenty first century. Meanwhile, you can cherish the memories of CITRA Malta through the hundreds of images that are available on line at: www.stephenbusuttil.com/citra2009malta.rar

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CITRA 2009: "Avoiding Amnesia in a Digital World"
6

WARBICA: Towards a Relaunching of the Branch
16

8 The Flight of the Reporters

8 New ICA Website is Launched

12 Annual General Meeting in Malta

14 The Numerous Projects of PCOM

18 SARBICA: Sharing Experiences of Digitization

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