



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

**COUNTRY REPORT**  
2021-2023 | **EUROPE**

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**Malta**

## Helping Commonwealth Member States and institutions use distance learning and technologies for expanding access to education and training.

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**The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)** is focused on adding value to member countries' efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG4. It's supporting governments and institutions in the use of appropriate, affordable technologies to improve and expand learning for sustainable development.

During its current plan (2021-2027), COL will:

- i) build on its expertise in ODL, OER and TEL to play a more influential role in national policy development and implementation;
- ii) invest in innovations and research;
- iii) support the digital transformation of institutions and organisations;
- iv) promote gender equality; and
- v) implement a rigorous monitoring and evaluation plan.

COL's work is organised into two sectors — Education and Skills — with Gender Equality and Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) as cross-cutting initiatives.

The Education sector supports formal education from secondary to tertiary levels across the Commonwealth, particularly in the small states in Europe (Cyprus and Malta) and has four initiatives: Open Schooling; Teacher Education; Higher Education and the Virtual University for Small States of The Commonwealth (VUSSC).

The Skills sector supports formal, non-formal and informal education and training to equip learners for livelihoods and has three initiatives: Skills for Work; Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) and GIRLS Inspire.

The work in these sectors complement the three pathways of change COL is focusing on in achieving impact for each member state. These are:

1. Building National Resilience
2. Strengthening Institutions
3. Improving Lives and Livelihoods.

## INTRODUCTION

A member of the European Union and the Commonwealth, Malta is a small state with a population of just over 523,000 ([World Bank, 2022](#)).

COL's work in Malta is in the areas of higher education and technology-enabled learning and is part of the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) network. Malta hosts the Commonwealth Centre for Connected Learning (3CL), COL's regional centre. Participants from Malta have attended COL regional and international events, and learners have benefited from COL's free, open online courses and other available resources.

## PARTNERSHIPS

COL's partners in Malta include:

- Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation
- Minister for Foreign and European Affairs
- Commonwealth Centre for Connected Learning (3CL)
- National Commission for Further and Higher Education
- University of Malta

## KEY CONTACTS

### COL FOCAL POINT

**Dr Alexander Grech**

Executive Director  
Commonwealth Centre for  
Connected Learning (3CL)

## REGIONAL CENTRE

Established by the Government of Malta, the Commonwealth Centre for Connected Learning (3CL) has been advancing innovations through open access, AI, blockchain and technology-mediated solutions. <https://www.3cl.org/>

## COL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN JULY 2021 - MAY 2023

### BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE

**COL is working with governments to use gender-responsive ODL policies and strategies for increasing equitable access to quality learning.**

COL initiated several high-level panels on Climate Change and Education to support Member countries in advancing climate action (through policy, capacity, resources and research). This resulted in the [Transforming Education for Climate Action: Report to Commonwealth Ministers of Education](#), published in August 2022. The Honourable Mr Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, was a member of this high-level panel who provided guidance and contributed to the discussions.

## Commonwealth Centre for Connected Learning (3CL)

A three-part webinar series on Social Justice Education was delivered in partnership with COL'S regional centre 3CL in early July 2021. The series attracted 158 unique participants.

The MOOC on Digital Teaching and Learning was offered on COL's MOOC4Dev platform between November 8 to December 10, 2021. Over 800 participants enrolled for the course from various geographical locations around the world. Among the 870 participants enrolled, 171 were government affiliated. 69 learners earned a certificate of completion.

A two-part webinar series on Blockchain in Education was delivered in partnership with 3CL in late January 2022. The series attracted 22 participants.

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

COL's Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning is held triennially and is co-hosted with different partners in different regions of the Commonwealth. The **Tenth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10)**, the first-ever hybrid Forum, was held in Calgary, Canada from 14-16 September 2022. PCF11 is to be held in Botswana in late 2025.

The **Regional Focal Points Meeting for Africa and Europe** was held in Seychelles from 20-21 February 2023. Official representatives from 20 Commonwealth countries in the region participated in the two-day meeting, including Dr Alex Grech.

## PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE

**Developing Partnerships to Acquire Impact: The Role of Three Regional Centres' Capacity Building Efforts for ODL Adoption in the Emerging World** (United Kingdom, South Africa, Nigeria, Botswana, Fiji, Malta) <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/3901>

**Report on the Regional Focal Points Meeting - Africa and Europe** <http://hdl.handle.net/11599/5316>



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