

FOREWORD

*Dr Austin Bencini**

Legal publishing in Malta owes so much to student initiatives which over the past sixty years have almost single-handedly kept it alive. The feat is no less incredible due to the inherent difficulties brought about by the very fact that the student body has done so by specialising in the publication of law journals which demands both continuity and consistency in standards to satisfy the periodic rhythms of journal publishing.

The student body of its nature is an ever-changing one. A graduation takes place every year with those students who dedicated so much of their time to give life to a series of law journals during their time at the law course taking their well deserved bow from student life. Their invaluable experience often goes away with them only fortunately to be instantly replaced by a crop of enthusiastic new blood.

It is therefore very encouraging to note that in addition to keeping alive traditional legal publications our law students have managed to find additional new blood and new energies to found a new law journal: the *ELSA Malta Law Review*, of which this edition is the third to go to press since the launch of the first edition in 2011.

This new law journal has made a fundamental contribution to legal publishing in Malta by becoming the first student publication on Law to submit contributions to peer review. In fact this is doubly so, since each article has to face the Turnitin process for plagiarism and subsequently to a student review by the journal's editorial board. After all this the article is subjected to an academic peer review. The editorial process therefore assures the highest possible level of review from the academic and intellectual perspective.

The challenge presented to keep up with the academic life-line of publishing one's research is of course not just of the student body. The student body provides the fundamental means without which no piece of research will ever find the light of day but the ultimate challenge is in reality of the entire academic body not to mention also of the legal profession.

Many had up to only a few years ago complained that the legal and academic souls of the legal profession were too lacking in the field of research outside the strict necessities of the daily advice or written submissions provoked by the vicissitudes of court litigation.

Today, the demands of the academic careers as well as the widening of the traditional fields of practice of the legal profession which take the practitioner afar from the steps of the law of courts signify that lawyers and academics are increasingly researching the wider perspectives of the 'word of the law' beyond the particular brief of a litigant.

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The ever-widening branches of law which are demanding the intellectual prowess of both academics and lawyer have seen the Faculty of Laws expanding the Credits offered to include new and more specialised areas of law. This should only mean that the field of research is correspondingly widening, all to the benefit of research which goes beyond the traditional subjects read at our Faculty.

This edition of the *ELSA Malta Law Review* manifests all the trends which are manifesting themselves in the field of research. The authors are all post-graduate students and the subject matter of their contributions is as varied as it is rich.

So, apart from extending our congratulations to the editorial board of the *ELSA Malta Law Review* from yet another superlative initiative, it needs also be noted that there exist no excuses for the rest of the academic and professional world to dig deep in the sources of the law available to us and to process it academically and intellectually, so that the energy displayed by the student body will bear all the rich dividends it certainly deserves.