

ADULT  
**FINANCIAL  
LITERACY** • MALTA'S RESULTS  
• IN THE OECD SURVEY

BIO NOTES





## Hon. Dr Michael Falzon

**Minister | Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights**

Dr Michael Falzon graduated as a Notary Public in 1989 and as a lawyer in 1991, from the University of Malta. A lawyer by profession worked with one of Malta's leading banks, Bank of Valletta plc., for 35 years, joining the Bank as a clerk in September 1979 and leaving as an Executive Head of the said Bank's Legal Office, in June 2014. Whilst working with the Bank, acquired also the International Banking Qualification of becoming an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in 1998.

Dr Falzon became involved in political activities on a local level since his youth. He was appointed as Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Lands in April 2014 up to January 2016. As from June 2017 he was appointed Minister for Social Affairs.



## Mr Mark Musù

**Permanent Secretary | Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights**

Mr Mark Musù joined the Public Service in 1986, holding various positions within the Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity and the Department of Social Security ever since. He graduated in public administration.

He was appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry in 2013. He is the Chairperson of the Pensions Strategy Group, Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) and member of the Sustainable Development Network Board, as well as a member of the Anti-Human Trafficking Committee. In January 2023 he was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (MCESD) and shortly after Deputy Chairperson of the Low Wage Commission.



## Marika Fsadni

**Market Research Consultant | M.FSADNI & Associates**

Marika Fsadni is the founder of market research agency, M.FSADNI & Associates, set up in 1998. As market research consultant, Ms Fsadni has led various quantitative and qualitative market and social research projects, both locally and abroad. She is author of several market and social research studies/publications produced on behalf of various Government Ministries and other Public Entities in Malta. Since 1995, Marika has also served as visiting senior lecturer with the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy (FEMA) at the University of Malta, where she currently lectures in marketing management and business management.





## Elena Miteva,

**Senior Economist | OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs**

Elena Miteva has worked in the OECD since 1992 as an economist focusing on privatisation, corporate governance, investment and insolvency systems reform, inter alia. She is experienced in conducting analysis and managing complex projects including OECD and partner economies in a bilateral (e.g. China, India, Russia, Bulgaria, Romania) and regional (Asia, Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa, South East Europe) setting. More recently, Elena has served as advisor to the Secretary-General, deputy coordinator of the OECD-wide initiative on New Approaches to Economic Challenges, senior advisor on South East Europe and head of Management and Communication for the OECD Global Relations Directorate. Elena is currently leading OECD co-operation with partner economies in the field of financial education. Elena holds a PhD and a Master's Degree (D.E.A.) in Applied Economics from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, France (Sciences-Po, thesis director Prime Minister Raymond Barre) and a Master's Degree in International Economic Relations from the University of National and World Economy in Sofia, Bulgaria.



## Dr. Sarah Pulis

**Head Conduct Supervision | Malta Financial Services Authority**

Dr. Sarah Pulis holds the position of Head within the Conduct Supervision function at the MFSA. Sarah has over twenty years of experience in the regulation and supervision of financial services, namely investment firms, collective investment schemes, company services providers, insurance undertakings and insurance intermediaries. During her career, she has represented the Authority on various committees with European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) and European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA). Sarah read law at the University of Malta and graduated as a Notary Public and Doctor of Laws in 1996 and 1999 respectively. She also obtained a Master of Laws in European Union Law from the University of Leicester in 2006.



## Karol Gabarretta

**Secretary General | Malta Bankers' Association**

Karol Gabarretta was appointed Secretary General, Malta Bankers' Association as from the 23rd July 2018. He represents the Association on various local bodies, such as the Management Committee of the Deposit Compensation Scheme, the Board of Governors of FinanceMalta and the Malta Financial Services Advisory Council. He also sits on the Executive Committee of the European Banking Federation (EBF). He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics (B. Comm. Econ.) and a post-graduate degree in Financial Services (M.A. Fin. Serv.) from the University of Malta. He was employed by the Central Bank of Malta (1979-2001) and subsequently by the MFSA (2002-2018) and is a former member of the ECB's Supervisory Board. He also served as Chair of the Committee of European Banking Supervisors (CEBS) Task Force on Supervisory Disclosure (TFSD) and provided assistance within the EU Commission's TAIEX program as an Expert on Banking Provisions of Financial Services Acquis.





## Lorraine Dimech Magrin

**Education Officer | Home Economics**

Ms Lorraine Dimech Magrin is an Education Officer for Home Economics within the Directorate for STEM & VET Programmes, Department for Curriculum, Lifelong Learning and Employability. Lorraine is also a Registered Nutritionist and visiting lecturer in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Consumer Studies within the Faculty of Education, University of Malta. As a curriculum developer, she has been involved in the development of various educational programmes and projects related to the development of the financial capabilities of school children, including vulnerable groups. She leads initiatives that aim to bridge the gap between financial literacy and nutrition, empowering individuals to make informed choices for their health and well-being while managing their finances responsibly. She coordinates the OECD-Global Money Week events and organises financial literacy activities related to Money Week in Malta alongside other stakeholders.



## Alexia Vella

**Director General | Strategy and Implementation, Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights**

Alexia Vella was appointed Director General, Strategy and Implementation within the Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights in May 2023. She is responsible for the development and implementation of national social policy related strategies, initiatives, and measures. The role also entails the effective management of the operations, including effective customer-care and service-provision.

A social worker by profession she has worked extensively in several sectors including in social welfare services, social security administration, EU funding & international affairs, and educational services.



## Carl Fenech

**Social Worker Leader | Aġenzija Sapport**

Carl Fenech graduated as a social worker from the University of Malta in 2016 and completed post graduate studies in 2019. Having always had the disability sector at heart, Carl focused his two dissertations on disability issues. He has been working within Aġenzija Sapport as a qualified social worker for 8 years, 3 of these years as a social work leader. His current role as a leader is to guide and support several social workers within the agency throughout their work with their clients. Additionally, this role helps him to understand how certain practices and societal structures may be impacting people with a disability either positively or otherwise.

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## Ms. Maria Mercieca

**Operations Manager for Community Services | Agency for Community and Therapeutic Services**

Maria Mercieca serves as the Operations Manager for Community Services at the Agency for Community and Therapeutic Services, which forms part of the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS). She oversees the development and efficient coordination of operations across multiple community centres in Malta, offering services in Community Social Work, Community Mentoring, and Community Development Work.

She is a registered social worker with fifteen years of experience in the field of community work. She has obtained her bachelor's degree in social work in 2009, followed by a master's degree in social work specialising in working with families and children in 2016. She also contributes to the professional development of social work students at the University of Malta and serves as a board member of the Social Work Profession Board.

## The GEMMA Team

Lead by Helena Holland (Director Pensions Strategy) as from November 2021, the Team is composed of Daniela the coordinator and team manager, Archibald, Peter, Pamela, Jesmond, Amanda, Mark and Tonio. All of the team work tirelessly to promote financial capability in Malta and Gozo.

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**Gemma**

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