

## October 2018

### 29-30TH OCTOBER: DESIGN4INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP MEETING IN RIGA

MBB Senior Executive Ana Vella was invited by the Valletta Design Cluster to participate as a stakeholder representative of the MBB at the fifth Design4Innovation project partnership meeting in Riga, Latvia. The collaborative project of eight European partners working together to promote design as a tool for user-centred innovation, is being locally implemented by the Valletta Design Cluster, a department within the Valletta Cultural Agency (national project partner). The project aims to assist SMEs to create more desirable products and services, become more profitable and grow faster.



By means of exchanging interregional knowledge, the project has since identified a number of best practices in design-support mechanisms for SMEs. In view of these results, the partners are also engaging with policy-makers in their respective regions to encourage the integration of support instruments for design into ERDF operational programmes, thus supporting capacity-building for design-driven innovation in SMEs. The Valletta Design Cluster will be a platform for SMEs operating in various sectors to collaborate, interact and co-design together. MBB is supporting this initiative by working with other local stakeholders with the aim of the eventual launch of a successful Action Plan for Design-driven Innovation in Malta.

## November 2018

### 7-9TH NOVEMBER: MBB CEO ATTENDS EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL SKILLS WEEK IN VIENNA

Following the success of the previous two years, the third European Vocational Skills Week took place in November 2018. MBB CEO Joe Tanti participated in the various events and activities which took place in Vienna, organised in close cooperation with the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders from across Europe to share their perspectives on Vocational Education and Training (VET) and its role in the future of work. It aimed to promote VET as a way to help young and adult learners discover their talents and as a smart choice that leads to high-quality jobs and increased employability. Quality education, effective promotion of apprenticeships and inclusive policies to accommodate the most vulnerable groups were also emphasised during the discussions of the Week.

In 2018, Mr Tanti was re-elected to the ET2020 Working Group on 'Innovation and Digitalisation: Boosting high-quality Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher VET, 2018-2020', representing EUROCHAMBRES.

### 12TH NOVEMBER: MBB SENIOR EXECUTIVE ELECTED VICE-CHAIR FOR TOURISM AND CULTURAL HERITAGE SECTOR GROUP



Following a meeting among the international members of the Enterprise Europe Network's Tourism and Cultural Heritage Sector Group at the EEN Annual Conference in Austria (23rd-25th October), MBB Senior Executive Ana Vella was elected as Vice-Chair of the Group. Over the course of 2019, Ana will be working closely with the newly elected Sector Group Chair, Paola Tolin from the Torino Chamber of Commerce. Together they have submitted the Sector Group strategic paper for 2019, which has since been successfully approved by the European Commission's Executive Agency for SMEs.

### 12TH NOVEMBER: MBB ATTENDS VITA PROJECT MEETING IN ATHENS



MBB CEO Joe Tanti and MBB Senior Executive Marija Elena Borg participated in the third transnational partner's meeting of the Erasmus+ VITA project, held in Athens, Greece. During this meeting, the whole partnership came together to review the quality of project case studies and evolve the project courseware. The partners also worked on finalising the VITA 'Trainers Toolbox' which will help improve digital literacy.

For more information about the VITA project visit page 57.