

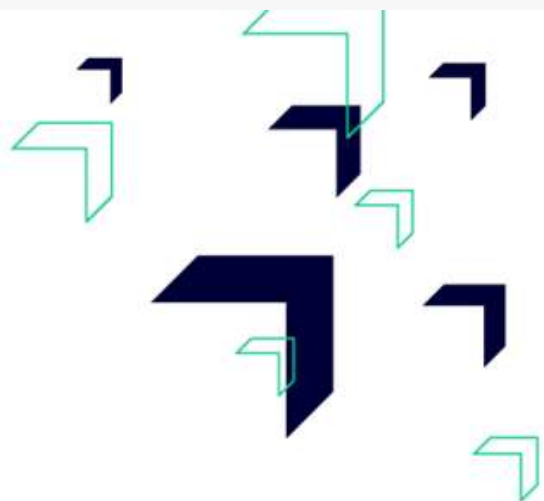


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A TRAINING COURSE ON CURRENT TOPICS OF RELEVANCE TO THE MALTESE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR



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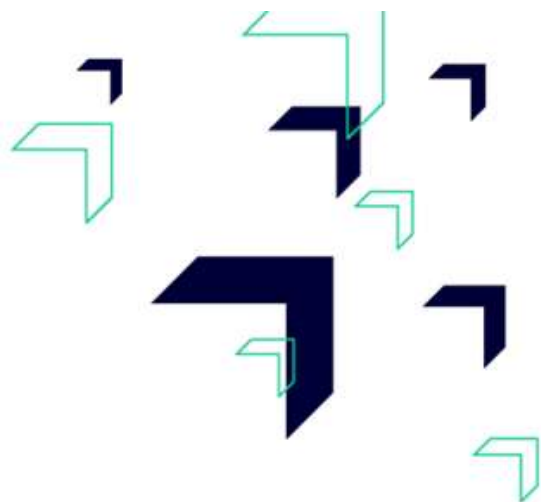


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The Orientation training in Maltese Agrology (70 hours of lecturing) aimed at presenting a comprehensive overview of the Maltese Agricultural sector, Orientation training in Plant Agriculture (64Hours of lecturing) aimed at presenting a comprehensive overview of the Maltese Arable Farming sector, Orientation training in Animal Agriculture (64 hours of lecturing) aimed at presenting a comprehensive overview of the Maltese Arable Farming sector.

Topics in Organic Agriculture (64 hours) aimed at presenting a comprehensive overview of the Maltese Organic Farming sector.

Other courses that were offered on request to satisfy the obligatory requirements of groups of participants included a) Integrated pest management, b) Animal health and welfare, c) Herbaceous vegetable production, and d) topics in sustainable agriculture.



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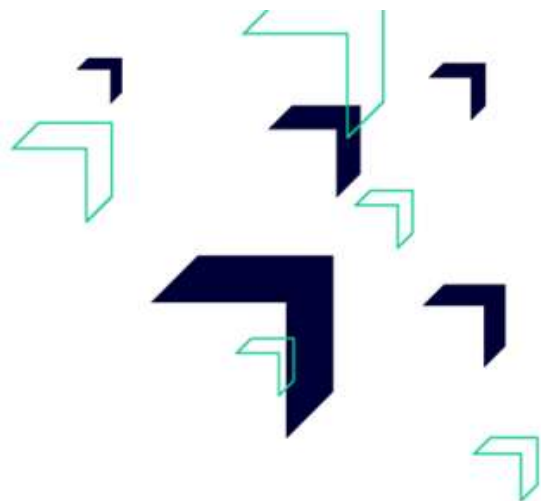
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The signing of the grant agreement was delayed by 4 months by the University, thereby losing precious time to deliver the training as the original 12-month period was reduced to 8 months.

Entities such as MUHC should be considered as eligible to offer training, thereby bypassing the bureaucracy associated with the delivery of formal education



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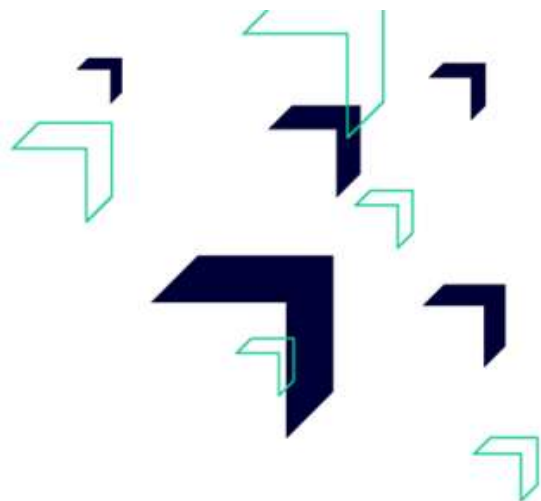
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Malta University Holding Company Limited (<http://muhc.com.mt/>) is a company fully owned by the University of Malta (UM). Amongst a number of activities, it specialises in Continuous Professional Development.

The Professional Development business line provides a variety of short training and educational programmes, utilising tutors and facilities of the University of Malta and individual professionals.



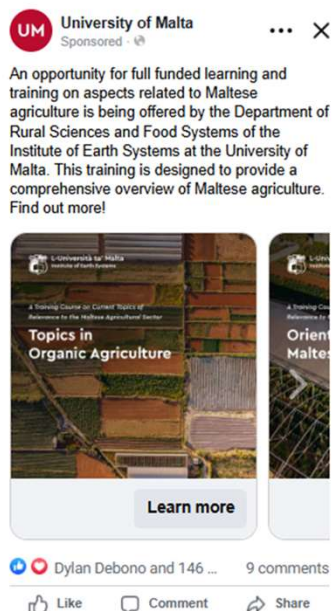
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Following an advertising campaign in February, it was noted that most of the people who registered were not eligible, as they did not have an ARPA profile

The eligibility clause needs to be widened to include interested participants who do not have an ARPA profile, but who could potentially be lured into the farming community as new entrants, thereby attracting young talent into agriculture, such as students interested in agriculture and their mentors.



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The willingness to participate from eligible participants is evident; however, the venue and the time scheduling for the delivery of the sessions can be an issue. A significant portion of the participants holding an ARPA profile are quite advanced in age, and have difficulties in attending obligatory training. Another issue is that some participants hold full-time employment elsewhere and are restricted on their availability. Some participants, usually retired or young mothers, requested that training sessions be held in the mornings, or to have someone else to attend on their behalf.



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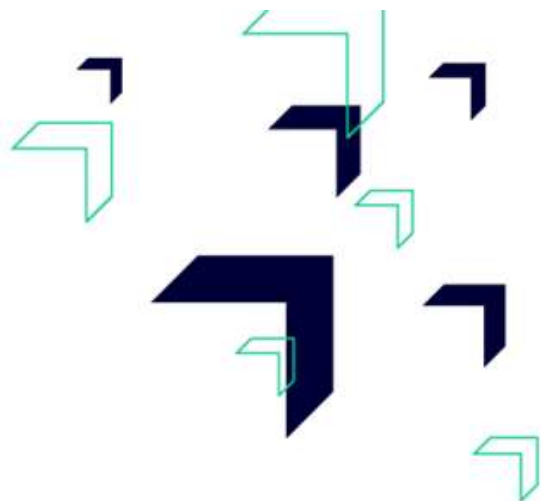


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Officers were grouped according to their place of work and the training sessions were organised in venues at their place of work. However, the halls were not always available.

The recent restructuring moved some people away from the agricultural sector (ex MCCA)

Some entities showed poor interest such as the Planning Authority and ERA



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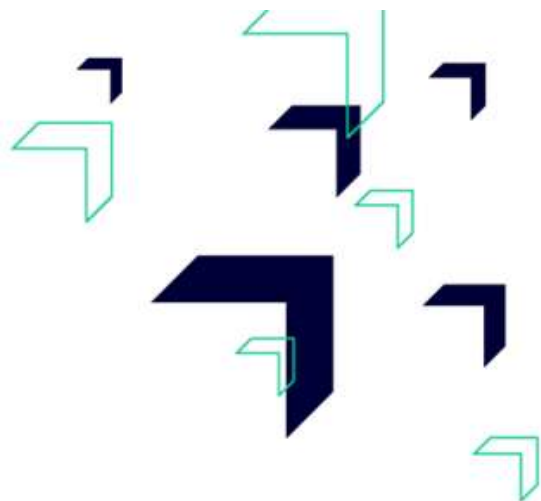


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Obligatory training is usually well attended, while voluntary participation is very volatile.

Trainers from the public sector can at times, be unreliable due to the nature of their office duties

Training should be organised in such a way that the sessions will last not more than 20hrs, having ideally a minimum of different trainers



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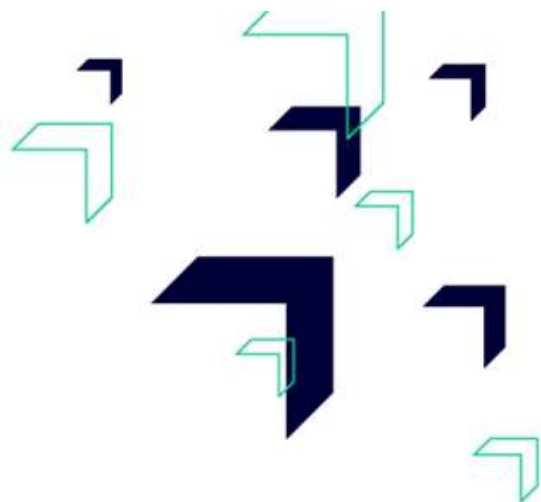


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The decision on what non-obligatory training to offer needs to involve the various stakeholders' organisations.

This needs to be discussed to define the needs and specialised target-oriented training sessions developed jointly, aimed at addressing the specific needs of that particular entity.

Given that these sessions were time-bound, the training sessions were crammed to maximise delivery



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Over 400 participants underwent training, 130 of whom were awarded multiple certificates



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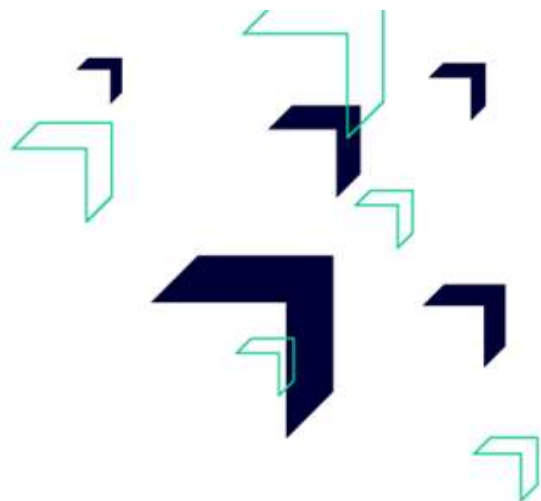


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Thank you



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