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bio / cv

Dr. Sandra M. Dingli is Director of The Edward de Bono Institute for the Design and Development of Thinking at the University of Malta where she lectures on creativity and innovation, on the de Bono thinking techniques, on philosophy of mind and on the philosophy of artificial intelligence to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Institute was initially set up as a Programme in collaboration with Professor Edward de Bono in October 1992. The Edward de Bono Institute launched a unique postgraduate degree, a Master of Arts in Creativity and Innovation, in October 2004, which Dr. Sandra Dingli has designed and coordinated. This innovative Masters programme attracts a number of international students to the University of Malta.

As Director of the Edward de Bono Institute Sandra has organised five International Conferences on Creative Thinking at the University of Malta at which renowned personalities in the area of creativity and innovation have participated. She has organised Seminars that conducted by Professor Edward de Bono, the world-renowned inventor of Lateral Thinking, annually since 1993. Persons from over 50 different countries have attended the conferences and seminars to date.

Four books with selected proceedings of the International Conferences have been edited by Dr. Sandra M. Dingli and published by the University of Malta Press. The fifth book comprising selected conference proceedings is expected to be in print in September 2006.

In 1997 Sandra was successful in obtaining support from the University of Malta to continue her studies in England on a part-time basis. She obtained her Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Durham in 2002. Her Ph.D. thesis was entitled *On Thinking and the World: John McDowell on Mind and World*. This has been published in book form in the UK by Ashgate publishers (www.ashgate.com). She has also published a paper entitled 'A Plea for Responsibility towards the Common Heritage of Mankind' on the concept of archaeological heritage as common heritage of mankind in a publication on Ethics and Archaeology published by Cambridge University Press in February 2006.

Sandra is a member of the Editorial Board of *Philosophical Writings*, a journal published by the Department of Philosophy, University of Durham. She is an accredited trainer for the de Bono *Direct Attention Thinking Tools*, *Lateral Thinking* and the *Six Thinking Hats*. Her training experience is extensive and includes workshops conducted in England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. Her research interests are in the areas of creativity and innovation, as well as in the areas of thinking, philosophy of mind, artificial intelligence,

entrepreneurship, organizational creativity audits, education and foresight. Recent research includes the creation of a vision for quality television for children (Broadcasting Authority, Malta), a paper on 'Dissemination and Implementation' of research (COST A 22) and the popularisation of science with underprivileged communities in Malta (FP 6 – Science and Society).

Foresight involves creating and exploring alternative future scenarios in an attempt to clarify present actions and subsequent consequences and to take action to either make a desirable future occur or to adapt to unfavourable circumstances. Sandra's interest in Foresight led to her participation in eForesee which was conducted by the Malta Council of Science and Technology. Following her interest in this initiative, she was appointed member of the Management Committee for the EC's COST (Cooperation in Science and Technology) Action 22 on Foresight Methodologies - Exploring New Ways to Explore the Future. Sandra is project coordinator for *Futurechild*, which is a spinoff from eForesee, concerned with disseminating and teaching simple thinking skills and foresight techniques such as scenario building to children (www.Futurechild.net).

Sandra has been closely involved with the introduction of Thinking Skills into a number of schools in Malta and has been consulted by Malta's Education authorities on this subject on a number of occasions, with whom she collaborates closely to host groups of teachers from the UK and the USA who visit Malta to learn more about the 'Thinking Skills in Schools' project.

Sandra regularly travels to international conferences overseas to present papers on thinking and creativity. These include Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the US, Singapore, England and Scotland. She is a board member of Rotary Club La Valette Malta, Young Enterprise Malta, the Geographical Society and Future Action Foundation and a member of the Malta Institute of Management, the Archaeological Society and Din L-Art Helwa. Her previous work experience is extensive and includes entrepreneurship, tourism, banking, human resources, industry, real estate and television production.