

Report of the Council of the Malta Institute of Taxation

Covering the period 27th June 2024 to 17th June 2025 (the “Period Under Review”)

About the Malta Institute of Taxation

The Malta Institute of Taxation (the “MIT” or the “Institute”) is a legal entity which has, as its main objectives: the advancement of education and good practice in taxation and contribution toward the development of local tax policy and legislation.

Election of Council

The MIT held its 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) online via Zoom on 27th June 2024 at 1600hrs.

During this AGM no elections were held.

At the first council meeting following the AGM, no members were co-opted to the Council.

Official Positions

The Council for the period being covered by this report was constituted as follows:

President:	Dr Conrad Cassar Torregiani
Vice-President	Ms Geraldine Schembri
Secretary:	Dr Rachel Zarb Cousin
Vice-Secretary:	Dr Robert Taylor East
Treasurer:	Mr Christian Vella
Vice-Treasurer:	Ms Sarah Casolani
Members:	Dr Edward Attard
	Dr Ramona Azzopardi
	Dr John Ellul Sullivan
	Ms Louise Grima

Throughout the Period under Review, Council meetings and management committee meetings were held.

Licensing with the Malta Further & Higher Education Authority (MFHEA)

The Institute is accredited by the MFHEA as a blended educational institution. During the Period under Review, the Institute successfully applied to accredit at MQF Level 5 the MIT Course on VAT Compliance, as a result of which the Institute now offers three MFHEA accredited courses.

Membership

The Institute retains a good Membership base and continues to endeavor to provide a valuable service to Members and to encourage more tax professionals to become members. Since the last AGM 22 new membership applications were received. 26 applicants have been approved by the Council, whilst one other member application is currently being vetted. The current number of members has so far increased from 418 to 444 members.

Membership subscription

The Institute has retained the membership terms which were introduced with effect from 1 January 2023:

- A membership benefit of two complimentary CPE events was offered to existing Associate and Fellow members who renewed their membership (with payment in full) by the end of February 2025. This benefit was not available to non-paying members, including students.
- New members joining in the first 6 months of the year, benefit from two complimentary CPE events, and those joining from June onwards are eligible to one complimentary CPE event.
- The membership fee for new members enrolling during the year is as follows: €20 admin fee plus €15 per month, starting from the 1st of the month, following membership approval.

Following the AGM on 16th June 2023, with effect from 1st January 2025, MIT members seeking to renew their membership shall be required to submit a declaration to the Institute confirming that they have completed a minimum number of taxation related CPE (Continuing Professional Education) hours in the immediately preceding calendar year. A CPE Policy was rolled out in December 2023.

Support to members and technical initiatives

The MIT supports members at different levels by: communicating tax news (both local and international) as well as updates received from the Malta Tax and Customs Administration (MTCA), issuing information and guidance to members, representing members at EU fora such as the EU VAT Expert Group and CFE Tax Advisers Europe, delivering training relevant for Continuing Professional Education (CPE), and actively participating in discussions and consultations with the relevant authorities around tax legislation and administration.

MIT Membership Directory

MIT Members have the option for their details to be included in the MIT's online Membership directory. This directory of Associate and Fellow Members, which is accessible to the public, will give the general public a means through which they can identify individuals who, as MIT Members, have the status of "Tax Professional" for the purposes of the Schedule to the Income Tax Act.

Bridging the gap

The Institute continually strives to bridge the gap between the tax authorities and its members, seeking to bring further clarity to its members on various issues. In fulfilment of this objective, during the Period under Review, the Institute participated in several consultation processes with the MTCA, providing input on both draft legislation and official guidance documents. The Institute's representatives also participated in meetings and/or exchanges with the MTCA, on practical issues and concerns raised by its members.

Working with different stakeholders

The MIT has collaborated with other organisations which are similarly placed to support matters relevant to the Institute's strategy. As in previous years the MIT has collaborated with the Malta Institute of Accountants (MIA) and the Institute of Financial Services Practitioners (IFSP) on a number of MTCA consultations concerning draft legislation. The Institute has also collaborated with the Malta Stock Exchange Institute on two CPE events.

Educational Initiatives

During the Period under Review, the MIT launched a new MQF-accredited course – The MIT Course on VAT Compliance (MQF Level 5) and added new content to its CPE offerings, including webinars on VAT and Customs on imports, Investment Tax Credits and State Aid, VAT on Transport Services and the tax considerations for Family Businesses: corporate and tax considerations. This period's industry series addressed Yachting and Shipping.

Committees

The Institute has various committees that meet periodically to discuss current tax issues, contribute to MTCA consultations and working on projects / publications. These are the:

- Tax Technical committees - the Direct Tax Committee (which is divided into 3 sub-committees) and the Indirect Tax Committee;
- Tax Technology Committee
- Professional Affairs Committee;
- Education Committee;
- Finance Committee;
- Ethics and Disciplinary Committee;
- Membership Committee;

These committees have convened regularly to discuss the diverse initiatives that are being undertaken by MIT and, in the case of the technical committees, the technical issues of relevance to members and related initiatives. The notable developments relating to the MIT committees during the Period under Review are:

- **The Direct Tax Committee (Chairpersons: Christopher Bergedahl (International Tax); Daniel Caruana (Domestic & Compliance); Edward Attard (Personal Tax).**
Each of the sub-committees dedicated time to reviewing and providing feedback on draft legislative proposals submitted for consultation by the MTCA and the discussion and preparation of papers on matters identified by the sub-committees. Work is ongoing on:
 - The discussion and identification of practical issues which were raised with MTCA during the period under review.
 - Interpretation of "casual nature" the Nomad Residence Permits (Income Tax) Rules
 - the Maltese income tax treatment of specific transactions in crypto assets by individuals
 - Treatment of fluctuations in rates of exchange

- **The Indirect Tax Committee** (Chairperson: Chris Borg)
The work of the Indirect Tax Committee focused significantly on participating in consultations and MTCA working groups around legislative developments. This year the Indirect Tax Committee saw the third instalment of the VAT Practitioners' Forum, which focused on VAT in the iGaming & Betting sectors. The Committee also worked on the following: revision of the paper on the VAT treatment of activities of office holders; a review of the Capital Goods Scheme; and a review and update of the MIT Guide to Completing a VAT return.
- **The Professional Affairs Committee** (Chairperson - Edward Attard)
The MIT's Professional Affairs Committee works to enable the Institute to support, inform and educate its members, and other relevant professionals on the importance of their role as an integral part of the law enforcement process. This continues to be relevant in the AML/ Tax Evasion/ Exchange of information space and to this end, during the period under review, the work of the Professional Affairs Committee has focused on discussions with the National Coordinating Committee on Combating Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism and other stakeholders in connection with the interpretation of the notion of "relevant activity" in the context of activities of tax advisors, in the Prevention of Money Laundering Regulations.
- **The Tax Technology Committee** (Chairperson – Ramona Azzopardi): During the period under review, the Committee participated in consultations with MTCA around the digitalisation of taxpayer services, contributing to discussions around digitalizing more MTCA processes/submissions. After the success of the first MIT Tax Meets Tech Talks in June 2024, as well as the workshop at the MIT Annual Tax Conference 2025, the Committee is working on a second installment of the Tax Meets Tech Talks, focusing on taxation and crypto.

The MIT Annual Tax Conference and other Events

During the Period under Review, the Institute held two Annual Tax Conferences – the 2024 conference was held in October 2024 over 2 days. The Conference kicked off with an afternoon session followed by a Networking Reception on Thursday 3rd October 2024 and full day flagship event on Friday 4th October 2024 at the Westin Dragonara Resort. The theme of the conference was 'Understand. Adapt. Evolve'.

At the beginning of 2025, Council took the decision to move the Institute's annual flagship event from Q4 to Q1/Q2, commencing with 2025. This year's conference was held on 4th April 2025, a full day event at the Westin Dragonara Resort. This year's event commemorated the 30th Anniversary since the Institute's foundation in 1995.

The Institute, for the third consecutive year, held the MIT VAT Practitioners' Forum which took place on 26th February 2025 at the Xara Lodge, Rabat. The theme of the event was 'VAT & iGaming & Betting'.

The graduation ceremony for the graduands of the 2023-2024 intake of the MIT Course on Taxation and the MIT Course on Tax Compliance was held on Friday 20th September 2024 at The Link Hall, Zejtun.

MIT website and social media channels

Besides communicating through the MIT website, and newsletters, the Institute retains its online presence through its main social media channels, mainly Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. The various communication channels are constantly being updated to keep in touch with members, students and the general public. During the period under review the Institute embarked on the second phase of its ongoing IT platform project which also includes updates to the MIT website.

Investments and Projects

An ongoing initiative is the IT platform project which, with a total budget of €50,000, has been split into two phases. The first phase was completed in 2024, with an investment of €36,000. This phase has been set up to handle the tasks that the administrative team require in order to handle administrative tasks for: accredited courses, registrations, memberships, CPE certificates, event management and some aspects of billing. This project is being implemented with the support of Smart Technology Ltd. The second phase is currently underway and is intended to render the MIT's website and membership portal interface more user-friendly.

The MIT Team

The MIT team presently stands as follows: Sarah Cassar Torregiani – Chief Technical Officer, Francesca Sciberras - Academic Co-Ordinator and Maria Pisani - Office Support and Billing. They support the Institute's Management Committee and Finance Committee in the day-to-day operations of the Institute.

I would like to express my appreciation towards past and present employees, as well as our CTO, the President and the Council members and the committees for their continuous support towards the Institute.

Dr Rachel Zarb Cousin
Secretary General

Mr Christian Vella
Treasurer