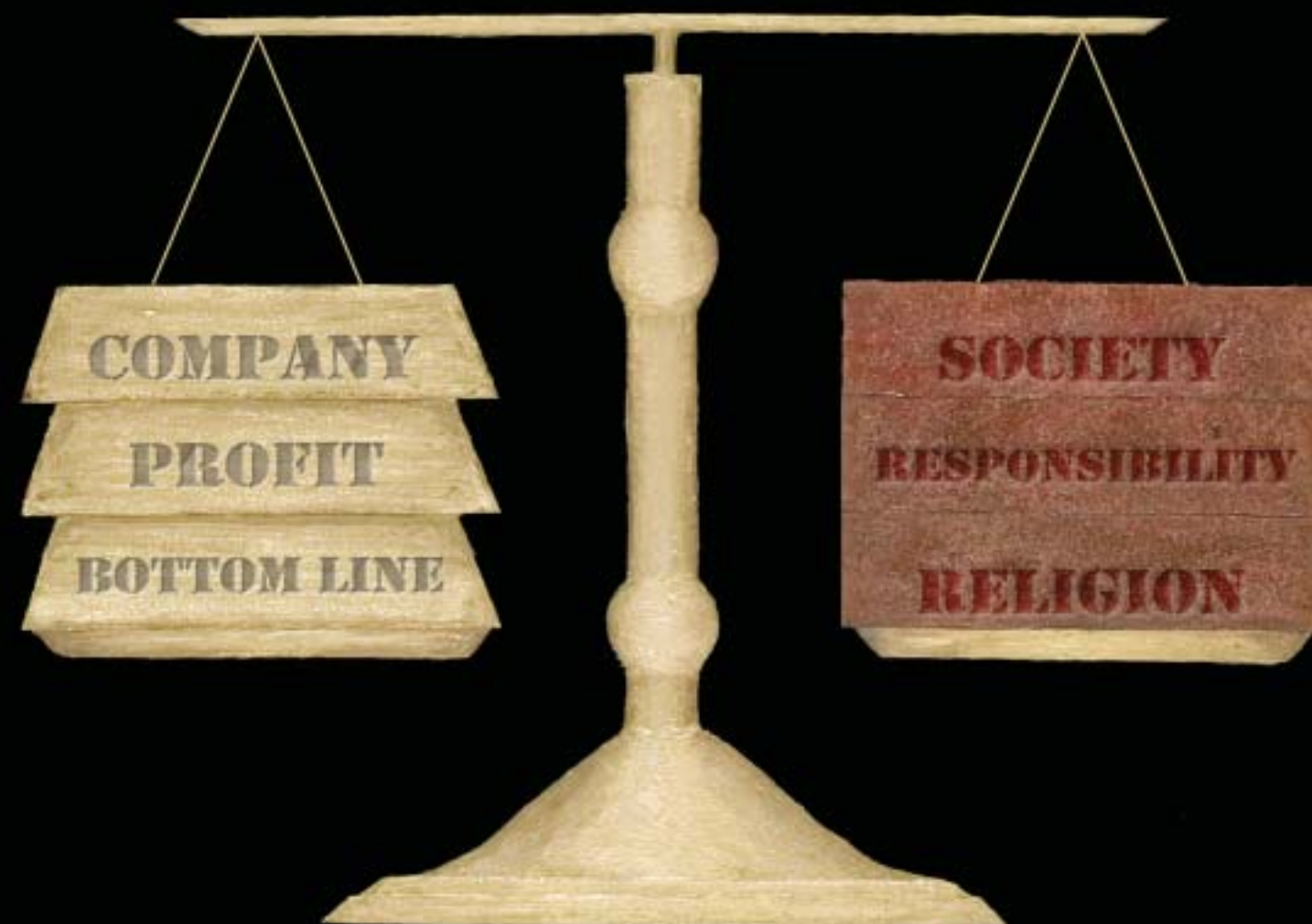




BUSINESS ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS VALUES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND MALTA –
FOR A MORAL LEVEL PLAYING FIELD
CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECT REPORT 2007

BUSINESS ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS VALUES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND MALTA – FOR A MORAL LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Edited by PETER G. XUEREB (Project Co-ordinator)



The European Documentation and Research Centre of the University of Malta was designated a Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence in October 2004. Contemporaneously, it won a grant under the Jean Monnet Project to work on a range of issues connected to citizenship, civil society and generally Malta's transition into its new role as a Member State of the European Union. One facet of this new role is Malta's role as a Member State in the Mediterranean. In the first year, the theme chosen was that of Anti-Discrimination, Inclusion and Equality in Malta in light of the *Acquis Communautaire*. The second Report focused on The Family and Family Values as inherent in the *Acquis*. This report focuses on Business Ethics and Religious Values, examining the concepts of Corporate Social Responsibility, Corporate Governance and Fair Trade, the various European Union and national initiatives, the essence of the relevant debates and the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church relating to the fundamental issues of human dignity, freedom and justice that underpin the global debate on the need for a level and moral playing field in Capitalism and national, regional and global trade and development.

The methodology adopted for the production of the series of studies comprising this Report was to set up groups of academic/practitioner experts and NGO experts to set the research priorities and agenda and then conduct the studies. While the experts would work separately and even produce their studies separately, group meetings were held in order to cross-fertilise ideas and approaches. Priority themes emerged in this way and certain issues became focal. The aim was to give an encompassing overview of the issues and the specific debates on Business Ethics and Religious Values, with a focus on Corporate Social Responsibility, Corporate Governance and Fair Trade. This Report presents the fruits of this collaborative venture in which some twenty-five experts participated, and presents nineteen studies offering an overall picture of the 'state of play' on the theme of Business Ethics, looking towards a level and also a moral playing field. The Report will form the basis for full discussion in a Conference to be held in September 2007 and a basis for continuing study and action.

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