

MIA

The Malta Institute of Accountants

MALTA



Ms Maria Cauchi Delia, CEO of the
Malta Institute of Accountants (MIA)

Professional Background and Role

Please briefly introduce yourself: What is your professional background and current position?

I am Maria Cauchi Delia, currently serving as Chief Executive Officer of the Malta Institute of Accountants (MIA). As a Certified Public Accountant, I have broad experience in the public and private sectors both locally and abroad. With a background in economics and significant experience in regulatory affairs and strategic leadership, I have had the privilege of contributing to Malta's financial and professional services landscape for over a decade. My role at the MIA places me at the intersection of policy, education and industry development, working closely with government, regulators and the profession to support the profession the resilience and growth of the profession and the wider finance industry.

How would you describe your organisation's role within the accountancy profession and the Mediterranean community?

The Malta Institute of Accountants is the sole representative body for accountants and auditors in the Maltese Islands, bringing together over 6,000 professionals and students under one umbrella.



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Our role is multifaceted: we support members through technical guidance, continuous professional development, and advocacy, while acting as a key interlocutor between the profession, industry, regulators, and society. On the national level, we have earned recognition as a respected contributor to policy and reform.

The Institute is also an increasingly engaged player within the wider European region and the Mediterranean community, regularly interacting with its peers on the international stage. We actively participate in meetings and initiatives led by organisations such as Accountancy Europe and other professional bodies. Moreover, we contribute to public consultations issued by EU institutions, standard-setters, and regulatory authorities, ensuring that the voice of the Maltese profession is heard in shaping policies and frameworks.

Profession, Future and Sustainability

In your view, what are the main challenges and opportunities currently facing the accountancy profession?

Although it may be considered a cliché to refer to this at a time of significant change, the profession is, truly undergoing a moment of genuine and far-reaching transformation. Technological disruption, heightened regulatory scrutiny and constantly changing sustainability imperatives are redefining the role of the accountant. Challenges include keeping pace with ever-evolving changes — particularly around tax, ESG reporting and digital finance, at a time where key established alliances in the Western world have been placed into doubt. Added to this, there is the huge challenge of addressing the growing talent gap. At the same time, these developments present a real opportunity: to elevate the accountant's role as a strategic partner who drives transparency, long-term value and trust. The ability to interpret data, manage risk and support organisations through uncertainty positions accountants as key enablers of resilient economies — both now and in the future.



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How is your organisation preparing its members for technological developments such as digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and ESG?

At the MIA, we are embedding future-readiness into everything we do. We actively monitor regulatory and technological trends and ensure our members are not only informed but also equipped to lead. This includes regular training courses, seminars and conferences on topics like AI, blockchain, ESG reporting, and digital finance. We contribute directly to national strategies on relevant issues, whether on digital education or Malta's economic vision for 2050— and provide feedback on EU-level initiatives like DORA. Beyond technical knowledge, we're focused on helping members develop the mindset and agility needed in a fast-evolving environment. This includes fostering ethical awareness, resilience and leadership in the face of transformation.

What is the accountant's role in fostering economic and social sustainability today and in the future?

Accountants play a foundational role in the sustainability transition. From measuring environmental performance and managing ESG risks to providing assurance on non-financial reporting, the profession is central to enabling responsible business conduct.



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But beyond reporting, accountants can influence strategic choices — helping organisations align with long-term goals, optimise resource use and address complex stakeholder expectations.

The MIA strongly believes in empowering accountants as agents of positive change. We encourage our members to view sustainability not just as a compliance requirement, but as an opportunity to create enduring value for business, society and future generations. This is particularly relevant today, as we are increasingly witnessing accountants stepping into roles that go beyond the traditional CFO function, including senior executive positions such as CEO and COO in both public and private entities. In doing so, they are playing a pivotal role in shaping the strategic direction and overall success of their organisations.

Relationship with FCM

What does being part of FCM mean to you and your organisation?

Being part of the FCM network reinforces our belief that shared knowledge and solidarity among Mediterranean countries are essential to strengthening the profession across the region. It gives us a platform to contribute to the collective advancement of accounting standards, ethics and professional education while highlighting the unique challenges and strengths of smaller jurisdictions like Malta. It is also a space where we can learn from peers, foster cross-border dialogue and represent our members' interests on a broader stage.

What benefits would you like to highlight from your participation in the FCM network?

FCM provides a valuable forum for collaboration and shared learning, particularly around key themes like sustainability, digital transition and talent development.



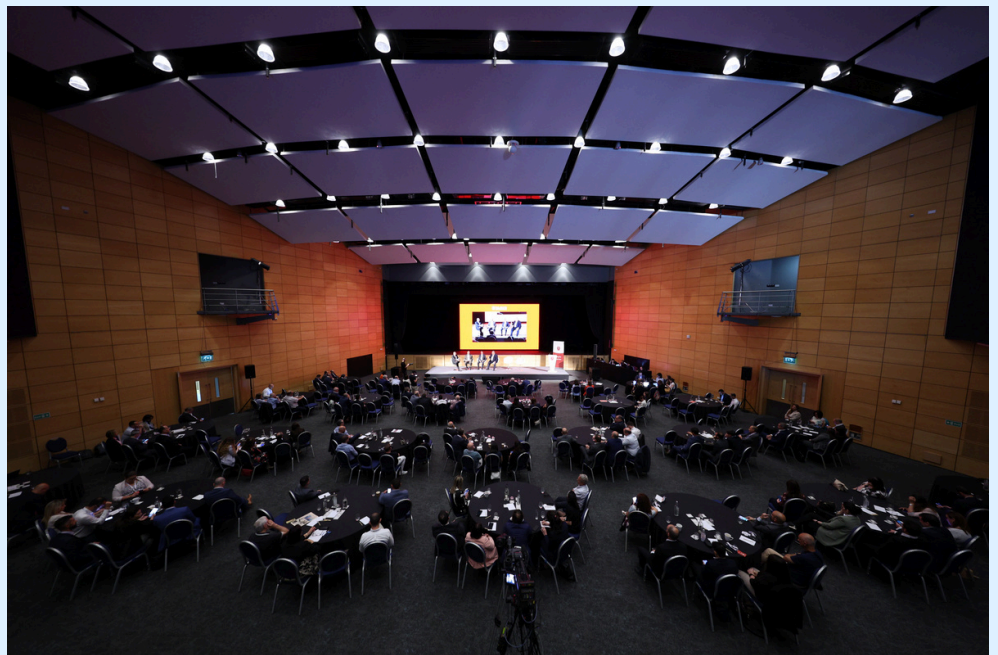


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It creates a strong support structure where professional bodies can exchange good practices, align strategies, and collaborate on joint projects or advocacy initiatives. For us, the ability to be a part in cross-national discussions and access regional insights enhances our own domestic positioning while helping to shape a more cohesive Mediterranean voice in international platforms.

Is there any topic you would like FCM to focus on in the coming years?

Talent mobility and workforce development are areas that would benefit from deeper regional coordination. With many countries facing skills shortages and changing expectations from younger professionals, it would be useful to explore shared strategies for attracting, training, and retaining talent. Additionally, the growing demands around ESG and sustainability reporting call for more guidance and harmonisation across jurisdictions — especially for SMEs. A stronger Mediterranean perspective on these issues would help smaller and mid-sized firms respond confidently to global trends.





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Personal Dimension

Beyond your professional responsibilities, what hobbies or personal interests do you enjoy?

Beyond my professional responsibilities, I enjoy staying active through strength training, walking, and swimming. Physical fitness is important to me as it helps maintain both mental and physical well-being. I also have a strong appreciation for music, which I find both relaxing and inspiring. In my downtime, I enjoy reading, especially books that offer new perspectives or insights and I love to travel whenever possible, as it allows me to explore different places and cultures and broaden my horizons.

If you could choose one Mediterranean destination for a short getaway, which one would it be — and why?

It is honestly difficult to pick just one destination, as the Mediterranean is full of stunning places, each with its own charm. That said, if I had to choose, I would probably go with Italy. Its close proximity to Malta makes it perfect for a short getaway, and you can never go wrong with the incredible food and wine, rich cultural heritage, and iconic fashion scene. Whether it's a stroll through historic cities, indulging in authentic Italian cuisine, or simply soaking in the atmosphere, Italy has a bit of everything I love.



Final Message



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What message would you like to share with your colleagues and the wider FCM community?

In these challenging and taxing times, the role of the accountancy profession has never been more vital, nor more promising. As guardians of transparency, drivers of good governance and enablers of sustainable growth, we have a collective responsibility to rise to the moment. My message to fellow professionals and FCM partners is this: let us continue to learn from one another, challenge outdated models, and remain open to innovation. Collaboration across our region is not just beneficial but essential. Together, we can shape a profession that not only keeps pace with change, but helps lead it, with integrity, purpose and a commitment to the public good.

