# **Covid-19 related research in Malta**

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| Title of Research Project | Queueaway Community Shopping |
| Area being addressed | Community services during whilst adhering to social distancing measures. |
| Collaborations with local or international partners? |  |
| Source of funding (if any) |  |
| Total funds allocated |  |
| Abstract | While many retailers have or recently launched online shopping through an e-commerce platform, these solutions frequently require a complex setup, web development services, content and maintenance. Such systems are frequently beyond what small providers or small community vendors like bakers, vegetable hawkers, gas distributors, small grocery shops, butchers etc. require. Also, typical clients of these providers are erderly people who wish to continue using the services of their trusted provider within their village or community in a time where social distancing is envisaged. These clients may also have limited knowledge in making use of online shopping via an e-commerce platform. The proposed applied research seeks to address the above challenges faced by both small providers in the community and their clients, through the development of an easy-to-use app which allows contact at a distance, a simple order placement procedure, delivery notifications and geo-location features. The aim of this app is to allow clients to still keep in touch with their trusted providers, get notified when a provider is near or when their shopping is outside their door. |
| Type of R&D personnel involved (e.g. engineers etc.) | Analysists, Software engineers, backend developers and mobile app developers. |
| Number of students involved in the project (Undergraduate, Masters or PhD students?) |  |
| Gender of Researchers involved (how many Males and how many Females) |  |
| Is local dissemination of project results envisaged? (Public health authorities, media, journal articles etc) | Analysis based on a typical small village community of small vendors and their trusted clients will be carried out to understand challenges faced in traditional communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Quantitative and Qualitative data will be collected (following users’ consent) to shed insights on how such an easy-to-use app can, whilst adhering to social distancing measures, reduce isolation and help to maintain relationships within the community, with particular attention to vulnerable person. |
| Any other information you may wish to share | This initiative is a contribution to society by the MCAST Institute of ICT Applied Research team (ICTAR)  <https://ictar.mcast.edu.mt/> |