Malta, Malta HYPERLINK "mailto:vcassar@uwol.net" vcassar@uwol.net & Albert Caruana University of Malta, Malta HYPERLINK "mailto:albert.caruana@um.edu.mt" albert.caruana@um.edu.mt Vincent Cassar University of Malta, Malta HYPERLINK "mailto:leonie.baldacchino@um.edu.mt" leonie.baldacchino@um.edu.mt

Abstract This study focuses on entrepreneurs in the small island state of Malta and investigates whether starting up and running an enterprise is facilitated or hindered by being in a small island environment. Specifically it asks (1) whether being on a small island, on the periphery of a major market facilitates or hinders entrepreneurship and start-up success; (2) whether Malta's cultural context and enterprise environment affect entrepreneurship and start-up success; (3) what the key success factors among Malteese start-ups are; and (4) how are creativity and innovation reflected in Maltese start-ups. Qualitative research among 33 start-ups is supported by telephone-based research among a sample of 90 respondents. Findings contribute to the pool of business expertise and context-specific information from small island states that is often missing from the international literature. Keywords: creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, start-up success, SMEs, Malta © 2008 – Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada

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Start-up Success in a Small Island State: A Study among Entrepreneurs in Malta

Leonie Baldacchino

Introduction

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