

# EASTERN REGION NEWSLETTER



## INTRODUCTION

### *The eighth edition*

This edition highlights the region's ongoing commitment to sustainability, inclusion, and active citizenship. It features a wide range of initiatives, from organisational development through recruitment, to impactful projects such as IVANt, ReWired E-Waste workshops, ballot bins, O' Holy Nights - Chapel Trail and initiatives like Cosmic Connections and the Christmas Card Competition.

The issue also reflects our engagement beyond local borders through visits to international cities, alongside a vibrant calendar of events including clean-ups, sports and cultural activities, workshops, and campaigns such as Pink October, Movember, and the Thrift Pop-Up.

Together, these stories illustrate the collective efforts shaping our region and reinforce the collaborative spirit that continues to drive meaningful change.

## MAIN HEADLINES

- IVANt
- STARTER PACK
- THRIFT POP-UP
- COSMIC CONNECTIONS
- REGIONAL CALENDAR 2026





## WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Mr. Anthony Chircop**

The second half of 2025 highlighted the Eastern Regional Council's continued commitment to sustainability, culture, education, and community well-being. Throughout this period, we delivered a wide range of initiatives, from major cultural projects such as IVANt and O' Holy Nights - Chapel Trail, to environmental actions including ballot bins, e-waste workshops, clean-ups, and improved waste management during local feasts.

Strong emphasis was also placed on education and youth engagement through projects such as the School Starter Pack, Art for All, Cosmic Connections, and the Christmas Card Competition, all designed to foster creativity, environmental awareness, and active citizenship. Our participation in international conferences further strengthened the Region's commitment to innovation and collaboration.

## WORDS FROM THE EXEC. SECRETARY



**Ms. Jeanette Galea**

Over the past six months, the Eastern Regional Council continued to strengthen coordination, administration, and community outreach across all localities. Monthly meetings with Local Council Executive Secretaries remained central to ensuring effective communication, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices.

This period saw strong engagement through regional events, educational initiatives, environmental actions, and fundraising campaigns, reinforcing the Council's commitment to social responsibility and responsive governance. The continued development of the Children's Council under the RIGHTS initiative further emphasised our focus on participation and inclusion from a young age.





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# RECRUITMENT

## ***Regional Officers***

Currently, The Eastern Regional Council has appointed four Regional Officials:

- Managing Officer responsible for Waste Management – Mr. Ryan Zammit
- Cultural Manager – Mr. James Hamberger
- Environmental Manager – Ms. Andrea Borg Brincat
- Local/EU Funds Manager – Ms. Martina Sammut

We are currently looking into employing a Projects Manager and an IT Officer.



***Starting from the left: Mr. Ryan Zammit, Mr. James Hamberger, Ms. Andrea Borg Brincat and Ms. Martina Sammut***

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# PROJECTS

# LVANT

***In collaboration with GO, Vibe, Tourism Zones Regeneration Agency, the Plaza, MTA***

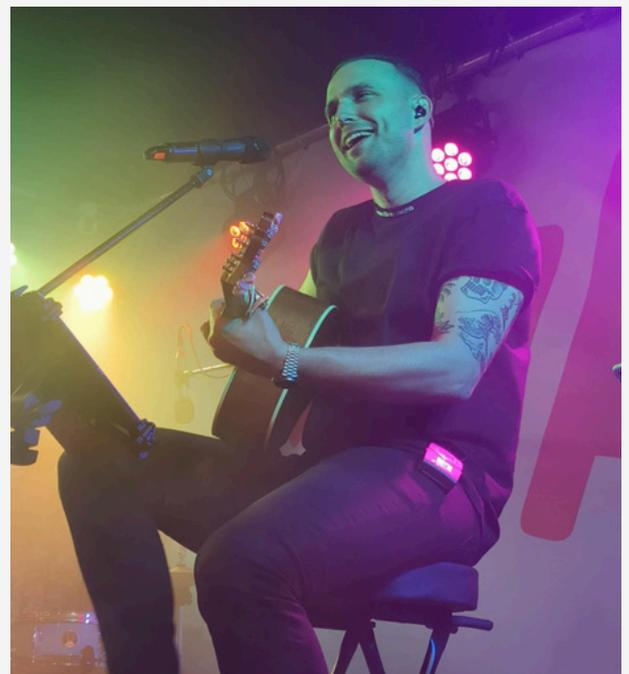
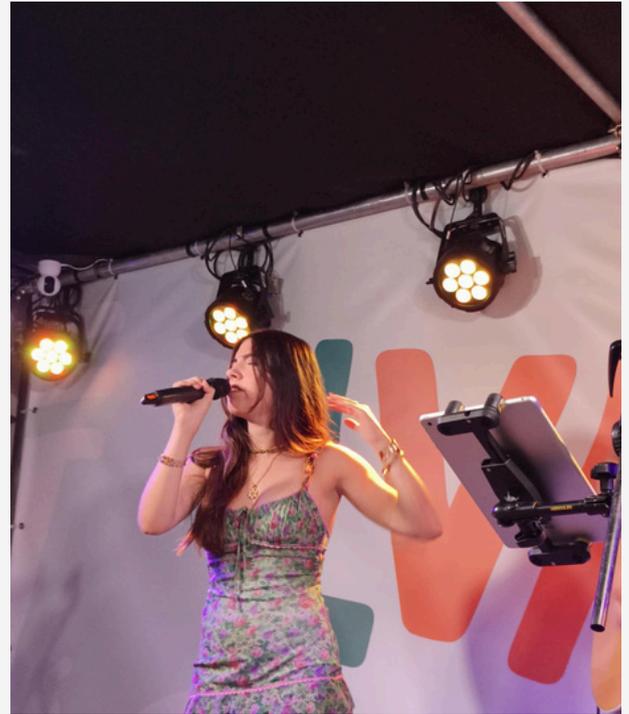
For the second consecutive year, the Eastern Regional Council organised LVANT. From mid-July to mid-August, 11 performances took place in various localities. 14 different performers were given the opportunity to performance on LVANT this year.

Like last year, this year's edition was very well received by audiences and artists alike. It has become an identity defining project for the Region and one that continues to leave a positive legacy.





# LVANT





# BINS AT LOCAL FEASTS

## ***Special thanks to Clean Malta - Cleansing and Maintenance Division***

Following an agreement with the Cleansing and Maintenance Division, the Eastern Regional Council is providing a number of 120 Liter Wheelie Bins to be temporarily installed during the feast or event organised in the respective locality. During the second half of the year we provided a total of 416 bins and 10 wooden bin structures during 22 separate feasts or events. Each of these structures accommodates five bins, specifically designed for different types of waste: two for mixed waste, two for recyclables, and one for organic waste. The main aim of this collaboration is to decrease the amount of waste that is irresponsibly disposed of during such activities, increase proper waste separation during outdoor activities, while also increasing awareness about proper waste management. As a community, it's crucial that we collectively commit to utilizing these resources appropriately and adhere to responsible waste disposal practices. Special thanks are due to Clean Malta - Cleansing and Maintenance Division for their invaluable cooperation during these last four years.



***Bin Structure installed at Iklġn for Festa Fjuri***

# REWIRED E-WASTE WORKSHOP

***In collaboration with MSPCA Charity Shops***

***With special thanks to our sponsors: RSC, Fabian Enterprises Ltd, JB Department Stores and Ignazio Anastasi Ltd.***

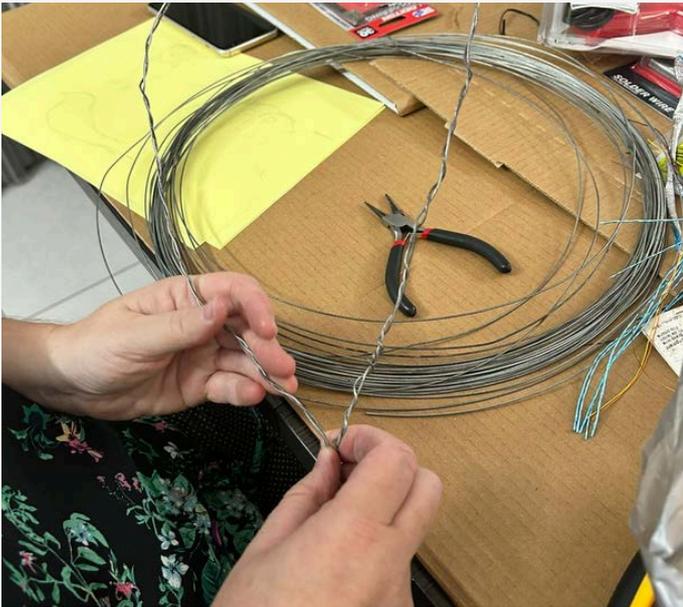
The Eastern Regional Council, in collaboration with the MSPCA Charity Shops and under the creative guidance of international designer Rosanna Cirasuolo, hosted a series of ReWired E-Waste Workshops with local artists. The electronic waste used throughout the project had been collected over several years by the MSPCA Charity Shops, giving discarded items a new purpose.

In the first workshop, artists introduced themselves, shared their skills, and began exploring ways to transform old electronics into creative works of art. In the second session, they built on their initial plans, breaking down and repurposing materials to develop their individual pieces. The second and third workshop saw artists refining their concepts further as they reimagined and assembled discarded components into meaningful creations. During the fourth and final session, several participants completed their artworks, bringing their ideas to life and demonstrating how e-waste could be turned into imaginative and sustainable designs.

These workshops highlighted the global issue of e-waste, of which tens of millions of tonnes are produced each year while only a small fraction is recycled. The ReWired initiative showed how creative upcycling could reduce waste and inspire innovation. The Eastern Regional Council expressed gratitude to the sponsors and supporters who made the project possible, noting that the completed artworks would soon be exhibited for the public to enjoy.



# REWIRED E-WASTE WORKSHOP



# STARTER PACK

## ***In collaboration with Transport Malta & ERA***

The School Starter Pack Project is an annual initiative, successfully conducted for four consecutive editions, with plans for a fifth edition during the 2026–2027 scholastic year. It targets all Year 1 students in 21 primary schools and 3 catechism centres within the region, benefiting approximately 1,200 children annually.

This educational project provides a sustainable stationery set containing eco-friendly items, this year the pack included a customised jute and cotton pocket, 15 cm's wooden ruler, wooden sharpener, recycled wooden pencil, cardboard pen, ERA Pencil, A5 FSC Certified customised drawing book, set of crayons in customised seed paper packaging and a customised sprout pencil in a customised seed paper pencil sleeve. To further engage students, the character Bertu l-Ballotra, a representation of the rare and indigenous Maltese Weasel (Ballotra), was featured on the items. The weasel was chosen to further raise awareness of Maltese biodiversity while promoting environmental education.

For this year's edition we brought this character to life as the mascot accompanied the Regional and Local Council representatives during the interactive presentation session and distribution process. The project emphasizes on the concepts of sustainability and recycling, while also shows families that there are alternatives to plastic stationery. The project also offers a financial relief to parents during back-to-school preparations. We would like to thank our sponsors Transport Malta & ERA for their help in making this project possible.



# BALLOT BINS

Ballot Box Cigarette Bins started to be installed across our Region, with Gżira having the very first permanently installed Ballot Box Cigarette Bin in the Country. Shortly after, Birkirkara installed two of these bins with 3 more scheduled to be installed at Tal-Pieta and Ta' Xbiex during the beginning of 2026. We would like to thank the Local Government Division for the provided funds, through the applied scheme. Unfortunately, cigarette butt littering is the most accepted form of littering, however these cigarette butts cause a lot of harm to the natural environment as they contain plastic. Studies have shown that such bins decrease the number of littered cigarette butts, because it's a fun and interactive bin. Given their success even in Malta, this Region will continue working to implement as much Ballot Box Cigarette Bins across our Region.



**Gżira Ballot Bin**



**Birkirkara Ballot Bin**



# COSMIC CONNECTIONS: BRIDGING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ASTRONOMY



***In collaboration with the Astronomical Society of Malta  
With special thanks to the National STEM Community Fund by Esplora Interactive Science  
Centre***

Throughout October and November, the Eastern Regional Council teamed up with the The Astronomical Society of Malta to bring the wonders of the universe closer to our young community.

Together, we visited four secondary schools within the Eastern Region, where we delivered engaging lectures on the fascinating world above us. Students explored the mysteries of the planets, the power of the Sun, and the brilliance of other stars scattered across our galaxy.

These sessions weren't just about science—they were about connection, curiosity, and inspiring the next generation to look up and dream big.



***St. Catherine's, Pembroke***



***St. Augustine's College, Pieta***



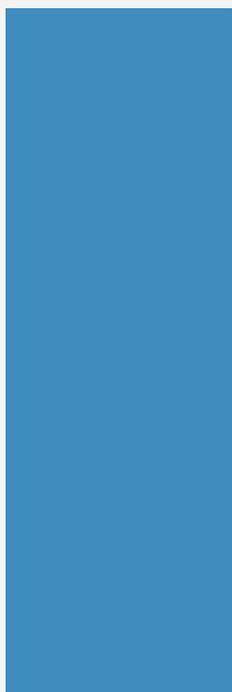
***St. Francis Secondary School, Sliema***



***St. Joseph's School, Sliema***

# CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

**Special thanks to our sponsors: Malta National Aquarium, Wot Art lessons, L-Aġenzija Nazzjonali tal-Litterizmu, Odyssey Malta, Gamebreaker, Esplora Interactive Science Centre, Planet Play, and Museum of Illusions**



The Eastern Regional Council organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas Card Competition.

We invited children to participate by creating a Christmas card, with the theme being one of the below 3 categories:

- Christmas Through Generation
- Christmas Food
- A Child's Christmas Dream

We had over 230 submissions; a substantial increase from the previous year.

An expert judge decided that the winners were:

- Kimberly Marie Gatt - 12 years
- Noemi Magri - 11 years
- Kylie Galea - 12 years

# CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



# O'HOLY NIGHTS – CHAPEL TRAIL

The Region, once again, successfully won funding from the Arts Council Malta through the Regional Cultural Cooperation Program. The funding was awarded for a project entitled 'O' Holy Nights - Chapel Trail'. This project began in October with a series of workshops related to traditional Maltese cribs, ceramics and art. The project culminated in a two day chapel trail, where a number of different performances were held in various chapels, churches and heritage sites across the Region.



# O'HOLY NIGHTS - CHAPEL TRAIL





# REGIONAL CALENDAR 2026



The Eastern Regional Council's Calendar theme for 2026 is "Niċeċ u Statwi", highlighting the niches and statues situated in the Eastern Region. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Eastern Regional Council has published an annual calendar highlighting the Eastern Region's hidden unique traits.

## Locations:

- Triq Santu Rokku c/w Sqaq Karla, Birkirkara
- St. Michael's Firework Factory, Iklin
- Triq Ugo Mifsud c/w Triq Mable Strickland, Ħal Lija
- Bay Junction Street, San Ġiljan
- Triq Falzon, Tas-Sliema
- Triq Luqa Briffa c/w Triq Manoel De Vilhena, Gzira
- Triq Luigi Catania, Għargħur
- Triq Qrajten c/w Triq Bordin, Pietà
- Ibraġġ Church, Swieqi
- Triq Camillo Sciberras, Pembroke
- Triq It-Torri, Imsida
- Triq Sir Augustus Bartolo, Ta' Xbiex



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# VISITS

# MUSIC CITIES CONVENTION

In September, the Region's Cultural Manager formed part of a Maltese delegation sent by the Arts Council Malta to the Music Cities Convention in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The delegation was made up of 2 local artists (Klinsmann and Aidan Sommers) as well as our Region representing local government.

During the convention, discussions and workshops were held relating to the development of music cities, the improvement of infrastructure to promote a healthier relationship between live music and residents, the use of AI in music production and how to make music festivals more accessible.



# MANTOVA, ITALY

***In collaboration with the University of Malta's Institute for Climate Change & Sustainable Development - University of Malta***

The Eastern Regional Council proudly took part in the GREENMO Interregional Seminar for Capacity Building and Final Event — held at Casa del Mantegna in Mantova, Italy. As an active partner supporting the University of Malta, the Council contributed to high-level discussions on sustainable mobility, citizen engagement, and environmental innovation. The seminar brought together representatives from government, academia, industry, and civil society — reflecting GREENMO's mission to strengthen the quadruple helix network for greener living areas.

During the Keynote Session, the Environmental Manager of the Eastern Regional Council, Ms. Andrea Borg Brincat presented the initiative “Nudging Active Travel” — a local good practice project promoting sustainable and health-conscious commuting. The presentation showcased how small behavioral “nudges” can encourage walking, cycling, and public transport use, reducing emissions while enhancing community well-being.

Participants later engaged in interactive working groups and a peer-review session of GREENMO results, exchanging strategies and tools for implementing mobility hubs and fostering multimodal, people-centered transport solutions across EU regions.

The Council's participation underscored its ongoing commitment to innovation and collaboration in sustainable mobility — proving that every small step towards greener travel makes a meaningful difference.



# ANTALYA, TURKEY

In October, the Region's Cultural Manger formed part of a delegation sent by the Local Council's Association to the Kaleici old town festival. The delegation was made up of representatives from the Port Regional Council, Gozo Regional Council, Eastern Regional Council and Western Regional Council. During the festival, our Cultural Manager presented [www.virtualmalta.com](http://www.virtualmalta.com) to the international delegations, explaining the Region's work in using technology to preserve Maltese cultural heritage.

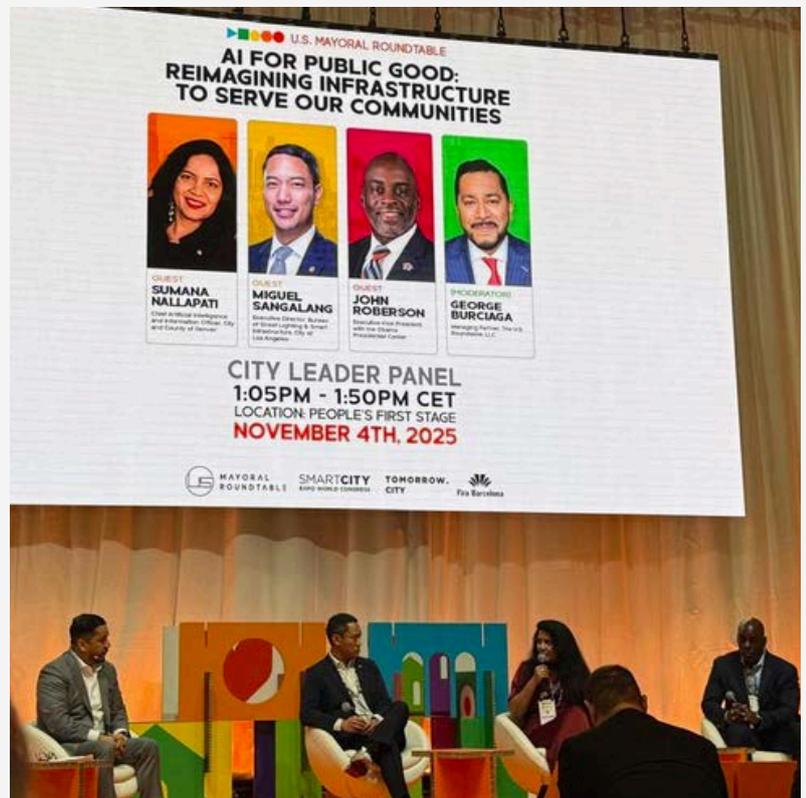




# BARCELONA, SPAIN

## *In collaboration with the Local Councils' Association*

In early November the Executive Secretary and the Environmental Manager attended the Smart City Expo in Barcelona on behalf of the Eastern Regional Council. The Smart City Expo is a leading global event that brings together government leaders, innovators, and industry experts to explore sustainable urban development and digital transformation.



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# EVENTS

# INTERNATIONAL CHESS DAY

**Special thanks to our sponsors: PlanetConsoles, Malta National Aquarium, Kite Group, The Model Shop, Gamebreaker and Esplora Interactive Science Centre**



In July, just one day before International Chess Day, the Eastern Regional Council proudly organised the 4th edition of the Regional Chess Tournament. The event, hosted by the Swieqi Local Council, provided a unique and enjoyable setting in the local garden, where intense competition met a beautiful environment. The love of this game brought together people of a vast range of ages and nationalities. A huge congratulations to all the participants for their outstanding performances!



# CLEAN-UPS

## ***Special thanks to McDonald's Malta***

Following a meeting with McDonald's Malta, a shared commitment to more regular environmental cleanups was established. In partnership with the McDonald's Volunteer Programme, we will now be organising monthly clean-up events at various locations across the region, with a particular focus on valleys and other sensitive natural areas. As of yet, 6 clean-ups have been conducted at Ғal Ґhargħur, Swieqi, Gzira, Birkirkara, Pembroke and San Ґiljan. More monthly clean-ups will be organised during 2026.



***San Ґiljan***



***Pembroke***



***Gzira***



***Ғal Ґhargħur***

# ART 4 ALL

***In collaboration with LESA, the Melita Foundation, Social Causes Fund OPM, Enemed, Brown's and WoT Art***

Art for All continued with great success throughout the second half of this year, concluding in October with a final showcase at Tigne' point. In total, this year, Art for All reached over 300 children from across the Region, representing the project's most successful and ambitious year. This year's project would not have been possible without the kind assistance of the above mentioned sponsors, as well as the dedication of WoT Art and all teachers and councillors involved in the delivery of lessons.



# REGIONAL SPORTS DAY

*In collaboration with the Centre for Physical Education Malta & Gozo*

On 23 October, the Eastern Regional Council held its annual Sports Day. Hundreds of Year 4 students who attend state schools within the Eastern Region, attended this fun-filled day, full of teamwork and spirited competition. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the schools that participated and a huge well done to all the students for their positive energy and enthusiasm.



# AI WORKSHOP

***In collaboration with Department of Artificial Intelligence within the Faculty of ICT at the University of Malta***

The Eastern Regional Council organised an interactive seminar titled "AI for Local Councils: Practical Insights & Creative Possibilities".

During this seminar, councilors and administrative staff within the Eastern Region were given the opportunity to learn about generative AI and how to use this fast-growing technology efficiently and ethically at their places of work.



# PINK OCTOBER

**In collaboration with Europa Donna Malta**

**With special thanks to our sponsors: Niumea Malta, Metropolis Pharma, Fort Fitness, Julianne Marie - Kreattiva designs, Ribbon Embroidery Creations – Marthese Fava, Salt and Sand – Joanne Bishop Magro, Grazzi – Ramon Sciberras, Saz Mifsud, il lokal, Mosaics by Thea, FilflaChilliCo., Maypole, Atelier Manuel, Corporategiftsmalta, TheCraftsRoom – by mtp, JC Health & Beauty Ltd, ARTI – by MaryLynn**

The Eastern Regional Council together with its Local Councils, came together at Urban Valley Resort & Spa in San Ġwann for the annual Pink October fundraiser. This year a tombola was hosted by Mount Carmel Band Club and open to councillors, local & regional staff, and sponsors – proudly raising €320 for Europa Donna Malta!

We would formally like to express our gratitude to our event speakers Mater Dei Surgeon Ms Solange Mizzi, and Europa Donna Malta's President Ms Gertude Abela and Europa Donna Malta Team Ms Francesca Lanni and Ms Linda Carabott – for sharing insights and spreading awareness.

Every action counts. Every contribution matters. Together we stand with survivors, fighters, and those we hold in memory.



# ECO-SCHOOLS GREEN FLAG AWARDS

We were invited at the Ekoskola Green Flag Awards Ceremony in November, where the Eastern Regional Council together with the Pembroke Local Council and St. Michael School won the Green Award for Best Collaboration Between a School and a Respective Local and Regional Council. The ceremony was presided over by H.E. The President of Malta, Myriam Spiteri Debono. A big well done to Local Councils' Association Malta for organising this event and recognising our continuous efforts.



# MOVEMBER

***Thank you to our sponsors, VJ Salomone Marketing and Brown's for supporting this event.***

In celebration of Movember, the Eastern Regional Council organised a Bocci tournament at the Hal Lija Bocci Clubhouse. This year's event was held in support of the Malta Male Cancer Support Association where Mr. Andrew Grech, a cancer survivor and awareness advocate, spoke about his personal journey to raise awareness about routine check-ups and the stigma about male cancer. In solidarity with male cancer awareness month, all the Eastern Regional Council staff wore blue for the monthly casual day.

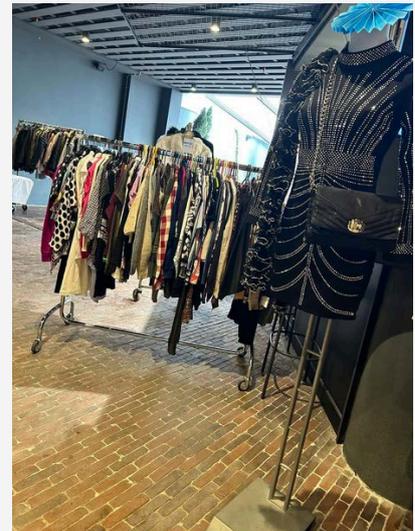


# THRIFT POP-UP

***In collaboration with MSPCA Charity Shops  
With special thanks to our sponsors: AV7 Events Malta, Avenue 77, HSBC, Coffee Fellows, Panku Food, Waggo's and Manzoni Fashion School***

The Eastern Regional Council hosted the Thrift Pop-Up for the third consecutive year on the 29th (4pm-10pm) and 30th (9am-2pm) of November. This year an outstanding sum was collected, where all proceeds were donated to MSPCA. During the two days, shoppers had the opportunity to purchase second-hand luxury and common branded clothing. Apart from this, we provided space for three musical acts: Colourblind, Ma'Estri and Aysha.

Clothing bought during Black Friday contributes to environmental pollution through the extensive carbon emissions in production and transportation, chemical pollution from textile treatments, the release of microplastics, and the overflowing of landfills due to the "throwaway" culture of fast fashion.





# MONTHLY CASUAL DAY DONATIONS

Throughout 2025, the Eastern Regional Council has hosted a series of fundraising events aimed at supporting community initiatives and charitable causes. These events brought together residents, local organisations, and stakeholders, fostering a strong sense of solidarity while generating vital financial contributions. Collectively, the activities not only raised funds but also increased awareness around social responsibility, civic engagement, and the importance of collaborative action within the region.

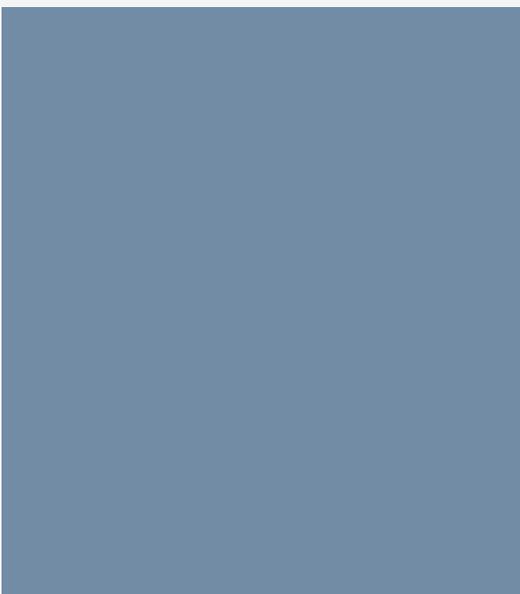
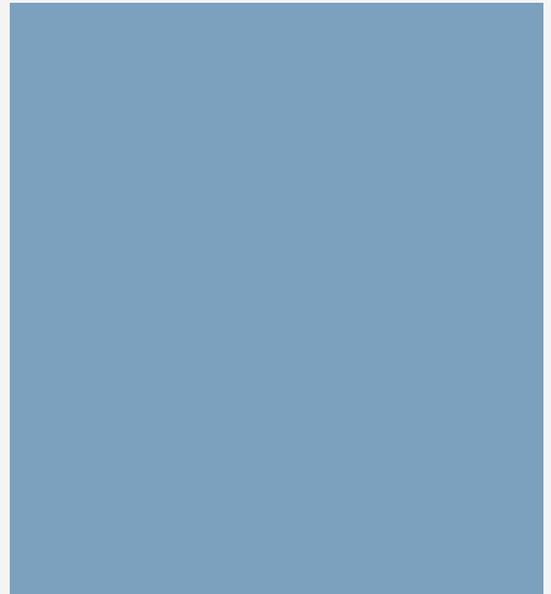
Activity/Event	Organisation	Amount Collected
Railway Reads	MSPCA	€250
Regional Football Tournament	MCCF	€1,964
Pink October	Europa Donna	€320
Movember	Malta Male Cancer Support Association	€100
Thrift Pop Up	MSPCA	€4,000
Casual Day	Len & Jacob Wellness Fund, RMJ's Horse Rescue & Fondazzjoni Sebh	€900
Total		€7,534





# MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Eastern Regional Council has been continuously holding monthly meetings with all the Executive Secretaries of the Local Councils since November 2022. These monthly gatherings foster collaboration and ensure that the Executive Secretaries can discuss important issues, share best practices, and coordinate efforts to address the needs of their respective localities effectively. The President and the Executive Secretary would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Executive Secretaries for attending these monthly meetings and for their continuous support and cooperation throughout the whole year.





# THE CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

The Regional Interactive Guiding Hub & Training Society (RIGHTS) was established to create local and regional children's councils to enable child participation within each community.

The Għargħur Local Council was the first in Malta to hold a council meeting under this new initiative. This effort provided a platform for children to engage in local governance, voice their opinions, and actively contribute to the development of their community. Through these meetings, young members are encouraged to learn about civic responsibilities, develop leadership skills, and understand the importance of active citizenship from an early age.

To continue promoting this initiative, representatives from the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society participated in one of the monthly meetings held by the Eastern Regional Council with the Executive Secretaries.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## "Does It Matter?" A Public Lecture about Anti-Matter

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

18:30pm - 20:00pm

Lecture Theatre 1, University of Malta, Msida





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