

### From the CEO



*Dear All*

*This will be my last message as Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation for Educational Services. It has been an honour for me to serve in this position for the last three and a half years. Not only was this an intensive learning experience, but it was also an opportunity to meet a lot of different professionals and individuals from different spheres of life.*

*As I always said during these years, the main focus of the Foundation should be the child, the student. During this period, FES grew and strengthened its structure to provide a better service. Different units and departments, like Corporate Services, Finance, Human Resources, Programmes, and the Support Services, have been strengthened so that FES becomes more efficient. In the last years, FES also proved to be flexible and dynamic in adapting to new and unpredictable challenges, like those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The introduction of an online service for both Klabb 3-16 and Childcare during the semi-lockdown in March 2020 was a success; not to mention the fact that in 2020 Skolasajf was the first educational institution to open for service in the schools, following the semi-lockdown between March 2020 and June 2020. The Klabb 3-16 Church Service is another feather in the FES cap, which provided peace of mind to parents who could not leave their children with any relatives whilst they were work. The opening of the new Head Office premises, two new childcare centers, and 5 Klabb 3-16 centers are some of the other milestones in the last 3.5 years.*



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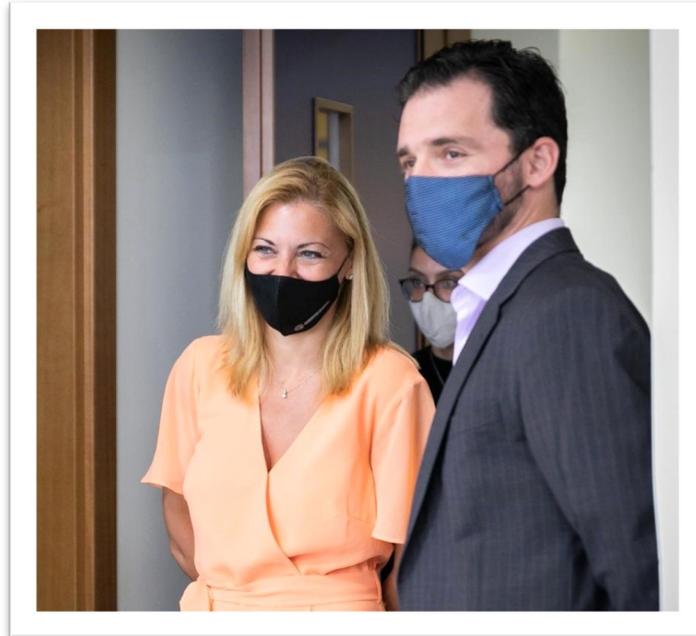


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*There are many people to whom due thanks are in order. I cannot but start by mentioning the three Ministers of Education with whom I had and have the honour to work. Minister Evarist Bartolo, Minister Dr. Owen Bonnici, and the current Minister Dr. Justyne Caruana. All of them have the same vision for the enhancement of the educational sector and the development of the abilities of children.*



*I would also like to thank Ms Elena Borg for her support in the first two and a half years to get things running for it was not an easy path; the current Chairperson Ms Pamela Schembri for continuing such support and assistance in the new FES ventures which were quite varied; the Perm Sec Dr. Francis Fabri, the colleagues at the Ministry for Education and entities / departments such as DQSE, IPES, MCAST, IFE, JobsPlus, NLA, and the University of Malta; the FES Board of Directors for their trust and direction.*



*Of course I thank also the Head Office staff for their loyalty and hard work; the Childcare and Klabb 3-16 Centre Coordinators for the passion they put into the job; and every Childcare Educator, Playworker with Extra Responsibilities, Child Support Worker, Playworker, Homework Tutor, and all the staff that return every summer for Skolasajf, for their contribution towards a common goal. More thanks are directed towards the College Principals, Heads of Schools, Precincts' Officers, and the MFED maintenance team for their continued cooperation. This position also gave me the opportunity to work closely with officials at IRU, OPM, Ministry of Finance, DIER, and many others departments. Thank you to these officials for their guidance, cooperation, and at times also patience. To the unions officials, thank you for a healthy working relationship through these years.*

*My final word goes to my team, the Management Team; thank you for your loyalty towards the Foundation for Educational Services, for your hard work, and for the respect shown during these years. We have always worked as a team to overcome challenges ultimately with one single goal, the benefit of the child / student. It was a pleasure and an honour for me to work closely with each and every one of you (current and past ones), and I always felt a very lucky CEO to have such a strong team at FES. I am proud to be leaving behind me a united team, full of energy with the will to move forward and keep building a stronger FES.*

*This year FES is celebrating its 20 year anniversary, and I am proud to have been part of this success. In a nod to the legendary Frank Sinatra, and with a fair amount of poetic licence, please allow my parting words to be that, while at FES, regrets I've had a few, but proud moments far too many to mention.*

**Goodbye.**



*Dermot*



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# From the Chairperson—Ms Pamela Schembri

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the management and staff at the Foundation for Educational Services, I would like to take this opportunity and thank the outgoing CEO Dermot Galea, for his sterling work while at the helm of the Foundation for Educational Services, for the past three and a half years.



***Dermot,** I would like to thank you for the valuable work that you have carried out at the Foundation. You were instrumental in getting the Foundation to physically move into new premises and strengthen the services that were already there, while creating new ones. You have provided a leadership that was especially needed when we faced the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and served the needs of the citizens who were faced with unforeseen difficulties brought about by this unprecedented time.*

*During this year and a half that I have worked with you, I have witnessed you making decisions that took in perspective, both the organisational and the humane aspect. The latter is an attribute that distinguishes our services and which prioritises the needs of the children and their families. During these past weeks, staff members, service users, and officials from partnering entities with whom FES works, have shown their dismay at your departure. Nothing could be a better testament to your good work.*

***Dermot,** we wish you all the best in your personal life and for a a successful and rewarding career.*



Photo: DOI - Clodagh O'Neill

*Pamela*



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# From the Staff

August 2021 brought to a close the tenure of Mr Dermot Galea as CEO at FES. While we appreciate his decision to return to his teaching profession, we cannot help but stop for some moments to celebrate his achievements while at the helm of the Foundation for Educational Services.

***Dear Dermot,***

*When you joined FES in January 2018, you did it with the full responsibility and knowledge that there was a lot of work to be done. Delivering three national services all year round is a tall order for anyone. However, challenges didn't daunt you, and hurdles didn't stop you; rather, they made you stronger.*



*They also made the success of each seemingly impossible project all that much sweeter. Outsiders may not have appreciated the hours and determination it took to turn ideas into tangible projects overnight; but we did, and so did the end users who benefitted from our services.*

*Three and a half years went by in a flash, but looking back at the list of attained milestones, it seems like it's been a longer period. You rallied a team behind you to improve and expand our services to our esteemed clients. You motivated your staff to work to their full potential, leading by example by rolling up your sleeves and working alongside everyone else.*

*As we thank you for your work and commitment towards the entity and your staff, we also extend our thanks to your family; your wife, Johanna, and beautiful kids, Gigi and Nina, whose love and support also made it possible for you to leave this successful imprint on FES. **Good luck for this next lap of your career.***

***The FES Staff***



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# In this edition.....

## Inauguration of Ix-Xemx Childcare Centre

August also saw the official inauguration of the new premises for the FES childcare centre of the Ix-Xemx Childcare Centre, at Qawra ,by the Hon. Minister for Education Dr. Justyne Caruana.

## Childcare activities

Summer activities in our childcare centres are in full swing too. Take a look at the fun activities carried out in three of our childcare centres. Also worthy of mention is that as the next scholastic year is round the corner, the FES childcare centres are also busy preparing the much anticipated *Moving On* celebrations, as the little tots start on their educational journey in 'the big school' ...aka Kindergarten. More in the next edition of the FES newsletter.

## Well Done Skolasajf 2021

We are now in the process of concluding our 8th Skolasajf, and gearing up for the Bridge Holidays service, until it is time to start a new scholastic year. We take the opportunity to thank all of our staff who worked tirelessly this year to make Skolasajf 2021 an unforgettable one. We also wish our dear students the nest of luck for their new scholastic year, and hope that Skolasajf 2021 has provided them with memories to treasure.

## Corporate Social Responsibility

We take a look at the various generous activities in aid of worthy causes. These include funds collected to help to refurbish the children's playroom at Dar Merhba Bik. This was carried out as part of the celebrations of the 20 Year Anniversary activities of FES. Another featured activity is the fundraising activity carried out by the Zurrieq Skolasajf Centre for Puttinu Cares.

## Partnering with entities

Apart from the amazing work carried out by our Skolasajf partners, details of which can be found in the August Special Edition of the FES Newsletter, FES also partners with other entities throughout the year, in fact FES was represented at the recent event organised by the Institute for Education about Micro-Placements Initiative.

## Continuous Professional Development

All the staff within the FES childcare centres have successfully finished an English Language Proficiency Course, tailored made to the needs of a childcare centre environment. The course was spread over a period of six months, and reached a total of 95 staff members.

## Vacancies

Work opportunities within the Foundation for Educational Services



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# Opening of the new childcare centre Ix-Xemx

The new premises for the FES Ix-Xemx Childcare Centre at Qawra, were officially inaugurated on 11th August 2021, by **Hon. Minister for Education, Dr. Justyne Caruana**. FES already offered the service of a childcare centre at Qawra, but has now moved to a bigger and more spacious place on the grounds of the brand new Qawra Primary School. The new premises are improving access to the service as the new facility can accommodate 20 children.



During her speech, Minister Caruana referred to the contribution being made by childcare centres, not only in facilitating the return of mothers to the workforce, but also in the educational pathway of children in their early years. She also referred to the launched strategy document about the education of children from zero to seven years, which is aimed at building on past work and on developing a better way forward.

Present for the opening were also the **FES Chairperson Ms Pamela Schembri**, and the **FES CEO Mr Dermot Galea**. They both referred to the extensive work done not only by FES, but also by other collaborating parties, such as the Department for Quality and Standards in Education, and the Foundation for Tomorrow's Schools. It is this synergy that enables the provision of modern and well-equipped centres that cater for the child's individual needs.



Photo : DOI - Stephen Busuttill



Photo : DOI - Stephen Busuttill

The centre is run by **Ms Romina Haber**, who has been working with FES for the past nine years. She referred to the activities organised by the childcare educators to keep the children engaged, and letting the children explore their environment in order to satisfy their natural inclination to learn.



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# Fun Activities at our Childcare Centres

## Qawsalla Childcare Centre



Water Play  
Oh! What fun!



# Bowling O'clock!

## Zmeraldü Childcare Centre



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# Laundry Day

## Pizzù Pizzù Kanna

Pretend play is one way how children learn about themselves and the world around them. As children play, they develop important complex social and thinking skills. Pretend play allows them to learn how to communicate, to negotiate, to understand tasks and roles, and to transfer knowledge from one situation to another.

During laundry day, the children got to not only participate in an activity which they witness in their everyday life at home, but also to learn about cleanliness, and also develop their motor skills as they wet clothes, wrung them dry, and hung them up on the washing lines.



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**REGISTRATIONS ARE  
AVAILABLE**

**The FES Childcare Service is available at the  
following locations**

<b>Birgu,</b>	<b>Il Kuluri Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 23985119</b>
<b>B'Kara</b>	<b>Il-Ferrovija Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 25985561/2</b>
<b>Bormla</b>	<b>Il-Bejta Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 21807090</b>
<b>Floriana</b>	<b>It-Tghanniqa Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 25982611</b>
<b>Gzira</b>	<b>Qawsalla Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 25984560</b>
<b>Haż-Żebbuġ</b>	<b>Żmeraldi Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 25987681</b>
<b>Marsa</b>	<b>Il-Pespus Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 25987151</b>
<b>Naxxar</b>	<b>Pizzi Pizzi Kanna Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 25986820</b>
<b>Pembroke</b>	<b>Il-Merill Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 21376644</b>
<b>Qawra</b>	<b>Ix-Xemx Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 21577639</b>
<b>San Gwann</b>	<b>Is-Sardinella Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 21372851</b>
<b>St. Venera</b>	<b>Il-Bebbuxu Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 21443855</b>
<b>Siggiewi</b>	<b>Id-Denfil Childcare Centre</b>	<b>Tel: 21432348</b>

**Interested?  
Contact the Childcare Centre  
of your choice for an appointment**

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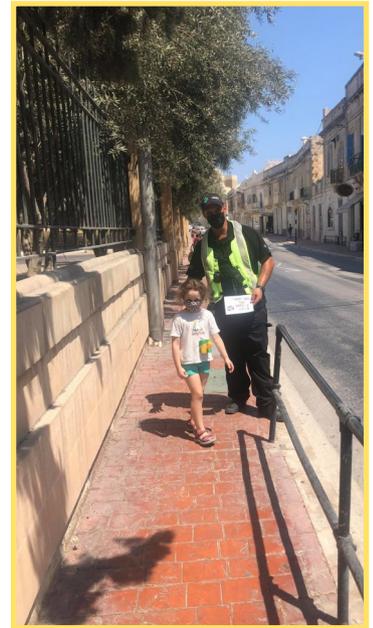
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## A gesture of appreciation

Luqa Skolasajf students prepared a Thank You card to the LESA Warden Mr Roderick Pulis, who is in charge of road safety during the admission and dismissal of students at the centre. A student was chosen to represent her peers and gave Mr Pulis the card while he was carrying out his duties. The following day, Mr. Pulis gave each child a small gift to thank them for their appreciation.



Through this show of gratitude, the students manifested the respect and value that is due to the community workers who contribute to make our environment a safer place to live in.

More Skolasajf 2021 stories in our Skolasajf Special Edition Newsletter (August 2021).



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## Dar Merhba Bik

In commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Foundation for Educational Services, staff at FES have collected the sum of €4,329.23. This sum was collected through various fundraising events held in the first half of 2021. Donations were given by staff and service users, including from the Foundation's Childcare and Klabb 3 -16 Centres .

These funds will be utilized for the refurbishing of the indoor playing area at **Dar Merhba Bik**. Dar Merhba Bik offers shelter to women and their children, who have experienced domestic violence. The organisation also works with their clients to help them establish a way of life which best meets their needs and which best helps them to develop their potential.



RECEIPT / DEPOSIT 03

Date 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

I / We, The Good Shepherd Sisters - Dar Merhba Bik Foundation have today  
Received from Foundation for Educational Services  
the sum of € 4,329.23 Euro  
Cents

(HSBC: 027635 d.d: 06.08.2021)

€ 4,329.23 I.D No. Pavia  
Signed Pavia

The cheque was presented to Ms Elaine Pavia, head of Services at Dar Merhba Bik, by the FES CEO Mr Dermot Galea, and the Head of Business Support, Mr Mark Cassar.



**It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into it — Mother Theresa**



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# Partnering with other entities - The Institute for Education

In August, the Foundation for Educational Services was invited by the **Institute for Education (IfE)**, to participate in an event about the Micro-Placement Initiative by the same Institute.

Micro-placements offer an opportunity to participants attending courses organized by IfE, to obtain first-hand experiences in industries that operate within a different environment to that of schools. These placements normally involve short-term projects where the participants would be supervised and are often focused on particular tasks or short-term projects.

The Minister for Education Dr Justyne Caruana addressed the event, stating that such an initiative helps educators to expand their horizon by exposing them to different realities. These in turn help the educators to be able to identify the potential of a student and work on developing it.



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# Continuous Professional Development

During these past three and a half years, FES has invested heavily in the continuous professional development of its workforce. An entity whose offering to the market is service-based, relies on having a well-trained staff complement that enhances the value to the customer.

Bearing this in mind, FES has planned a number of courses for the various roles working within its three major services. These have included a heavy investment by FES, in an English Proficiency Course for all the childcare centres' staff. The subject was treated as English as a foreign language, and was tailor made to meet the needs of a childcare environment.

The course, spread over two cycles of 13 weeks, aimed to equip childcare educators with the language knowledge and communicative skills required to enhance their daily work practices. This not only facilitates administrative tasks such as record keeping, but also enhances the literacy skills needed when carrying out activities with the children.



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# Vacancies

The Foundation for Educational Services currently has vacancies for the roles listed below.

Applications are to be submitted online via the provided links.

More information may also be accessed via the website [fes.gov.mt](https://fes.gov.mt) and by clicking on **Vacancies**.

Queries may also be addressed via email to [hr.fes@gov.mt](mailto:hr.fes@gov.mt)

## [Playworkers Klabb 3-16 \(Part-time\)](#)

(Deadline - Monday 6th September 2021 at noon)

## [Child Support Workers Klabb 3-16 \(Part-time\)](#)

(Deadline - Thursday 9th September 2021 at noon)

## [Tutors Klabb 3-16 \(Part-Time\)](#)

(Deadline - Thursday 9th September 2021 at noon)



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