

# INTOUCH

ISSUE 54 - March 2023



## Foreword

The third month of the year brought with it a number of milestones that impact our services in a positive way.

We started off with the work on the Skolasajf children's applications, and these were in fact opened to the public on 22nd March 2023. The uptake was immediately a very positive one and we encourage parents to register their children before the **deadline of 3rd May 2023**. Any queries can be submitted via the FES FB page or directed to the FES Head Office landline on **22586829**. Queries can also be referred to the **Freephone 153**, and assistance with the application process is available also at any of the **servizz.gov hubs**.

The applications were officially launched during a press conference at the San Gwann Primary School. It was also the occasion to present the new Skolasajf logo and the FES website. The Skolasajf logo is an instant reference to the concept of the **theme "Peace by Piece"**. The illustration shows different jigsaw pieces making up the whole. The new website shows a number of new features. The changes were not merely an issue of aesthetics but were aimed to improve the function of the site, making it more user friendly and with information being more easily accessible.

During March we also had an intense training programme in our childcare centres, such that now all the staff members in the centres practice the Emergent Curriculum. Training was also on the table for the Skolasajf staff members, as their training was planned for the coming months, in conjunction with IfE. Applications to work with FES are still open and one may choose the role most suited to one's abilities. Vacancies can be accessed at <https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/>



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Skolasajf Applications are Open!

Apply at:  
**services.fes.gov.mt**  
or at the **servizz.gov** hubs.

Applications open from  
**22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
to  
**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**

Servizz.gov:  
Freephone: 153  
Email: [servizz@gov.mt](mailto:servizz@gov.mt)

FES:  
 **22586829**  
 **@foundationforeducationalservices**

Parents and guardians who are registering for the first time, have to first create a profile. Once this is done, they will then be able to proceed to register their child by entering the child's details, choosing the preferred centre, and affecting the payment. Working parents opting for the extended hours' service can also choose the required extra hours.

Further information about the Skolasajf service and about the application process can be found at:

FAQs - [https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/FAQs/faq\\_ss.aspx](https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/FAQs/faq_ss.aspx)

Terms and Conditions - <https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/Skolasajf/terms-and-conditions.aspx>

Should clients still have queries, they are invited to contact FES via the FB page or else send an email to [fes@gov.mt](mailto:fes@gov.mt)

Assistance is also available at any one of the servicc.gov hubs. The full list can be found [here](#)

22586829

[fes@gov.mt](mailto:fes@gov.mt)

[www.fes.gov.mt](http://www.fes.gov.mt)

# SKOLASAJF

## OPENING OF APPLICATIONS

Applications for Skolasajf 2023, **Peace by Piece**, were launched on Wednesday 22nd March, during a press conference at the San Gwann Primary School. The press conference was attended by the Minister for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation **Dr Clifton Grima**, the FES CEO **Mr Michael Bondin**, and the St Clare College Principal **Mr Jonathan Attard**.

Minister Grima was greeted at the entrance by a class of Year 1 students who welcomed him and the guests to the school with a sweet choral song. Mattea Mintoff and Liam Galea skillfully compered the event.

While addressing the conference, the FES CEO Mr Michael Bondin spoke about the benefits derived from the service for students and parents, and also about the work involved to deliver this service to over 12,000 students. It was also the occasion to launch the Skolasajf 2023 logo, inspired by the winning design of Amy Aquilina Castagno, who won the Skolasajf Logo Competition.

FES wishes to thank the Head of School **Mr David Caruana**, the staff, and students, for hosting the press conference and giving us a wonderful welcome.

The Skolasajf applications will remain open between 22nd March till 3rd May 2023. Applications may be submitted at <https://services.fes.gov.mt/>, via the FES website <https://fes.gov.mt/>, or at any of the servizz.gov hubs.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# NEW FES WEBSITE

The FES website has been given a new look, bearing corporate colours and with better accessibility to information and applications for services. Appreciation goes to the Corporate Department at FES for their work on this website, especially to the Programme Coordinator in charge of Technical Support, **Wayne Borg**, whose technical expertise proved to be a great asset for this project. Visit the site at [www.fes.gov.mt](http://www.fes.gov.mt)



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Vacancies & Courses ▾

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## Welcome to the FES Website

*"Together we contribute to the educational development of the learner whilst supporting an evolving society"*

The Foundation for Educational Services (FES) is a public entity within the *Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation*. It works concurrently with the Education Directorates to provide a range of innovative educational initiatives to meet the needs of the community. The FES is committed to ensuring that all service users are supported through informal educational initiatives. It strives to offer quality educational services through structured contemporary programmes, financial sustainability and ethical behaviour. Together we provide a safe environment and an enriching experience to our learners, their families and all stakeholders.

Want to work with us?

 **Join us!**

## SERVICES OFFERED BY THE FES



### CHILDCARE CENTRES

The Foundation currently operates twelve childcare centres across Malta. These provide care to children aged **between three months and three years**. All FES-run childcare centres are registered with the Department of Quality Standards in Education and follow the National Standards for Child Day Care Facilities (2006).



### KLABB 3-16

Klabb 3-16 is a national programme **catering for learners after school hours**. It is an after school service which runs between school dismissal time and 18:00 hours, subject to demand. The service provided by Klabb 3-16, is also extended to offer service users an educational experience during school holidays.



### SKOLASAJF

This year, Skolasajf will run from Monday to Friday, between 12th July and 11th August 2023, and from 21st August till 7th September 2023. The theme chosen for this year is **'Peace by Piece'**. This slogan urges people to do their part, no matter how small, as all the individual "pieces of peace" will build the peace that is so needed by everyone.

22586829

fes@gov.mt

www.fes.gov.mt

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# SKOLASAJF LOGO COMPETITION

## Skolasajf Logo Competition Winners



1st Place - Amy Aquilina Castagno



2nd Place - Amelia Mizzi



3rd Place - Aurora Vella



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# CHILDCARE

## REGISTRATIONS AND EXTENDED HOURS

### Extended Childcare Hours

Monday - Friday  
06:00-18:00

Birgu	Tel: +356 2180 9285
Birkirkara	Tel: +356 2598 5561
Naxxar	Tel: +356 2598 6820
Pembroke	Tel: +356 2137 6644
Haż-Żebbuġ	Tel: +356 2598 7681
Qawra	Tel: +356 2598 6996

FES Head Office TEL: +356 22586829



The FES Childcare Centres are offering the service **over a longer period of hours** in six centres.

The centers at **Birgu, Birkirkara, Naxxar, Pembroke, Haż-Żebbuġ** and **Qawra**, are now accepting children between **6am and 6pm, from Monday to Friday**.

Parents interested in using this service are encouraged to contact FES, or any of the chosen centres, or visit the **service.gov hubs**, for more information.

**Registrations are also open** for the remaining FES Childcare Centres at:  
**Bormla, Siggiewi, St Venera, San Gwann, Marsa, and Floriana.**

A full list of the FES centres with all the contact details can be found at:  
[https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/Centres/centres\\_child\\_care.aspx](https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/Centres/centres_child_care.aspx)

Queries to FES can be asked on telephone **22586829** or via email to [fes@gov.mt](mailto:fes@gov.mt)

# HOW TO APPLY FOR OUR CHILDCARE SERVICES

**1. Choose your preferred centre from the list found at:**

[https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/Centres/centres\\_child\\_care.aspx](https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/Centres/centres_child_care.aspx).

You can also have a look inside of the centres, by watching the videos at:

<https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/Child%20Care/Videos.aspx>.

**2. You can download an application form from:**

<https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/registrations.aspx>.

You can also contact the chosen centre directly, ask for a tour of the place, and get the application directly from there.



Children can be registered at the centre by handing over to the Centre Coordinator, the filled-in application form together with the necessary documents. Only one application per child is to be submitted.

The Centre Coordinators and the FES FB Messenger service are always available to answer your queries. The Centre Coordinators will also be available to help you fill in the application form.

The childcare service is offered to children until they are eligible to move on to the government Kindergarten on the 1st of February, while children who are three years of age by the end of December are eligible for Kindergarten on the 1st of October, of that same calendar year.

# THE EMERGENT CURRICULUM IN ALL THE FES CHILDCARE CENTRES



The Emergent Curriculum is now being implemented within all the FES Childcare Centres, as March brought to a close an intensive training programme, with all the staff members within each centre.

The training was delivered by the Programme Coordinator **Ms Kathryn Xuereb** and entailed hands-on training for both the Centre Coordinators and for the Childcare Educators.



The peer-to-peer training experience and hands-on training at Is-Sardinella Childcare Centre, encouraged the Centre Coordinators to share knowledge and to cultivate a collaborative work environment.

This was followed by six individual micro-seminars within each participating centre. The Centre Coordinators trained their own staff with the intention of ingraining the child-led pedagogy in the daily activities, and improving the skill set of their teams.





# CHILDCARE ACTIVITIES



The children at Il-Bejta Childcare Centre got to be little hairdressers for a day, when they were visited at the centre by professional hairdressers from the Twice As Nice salon.

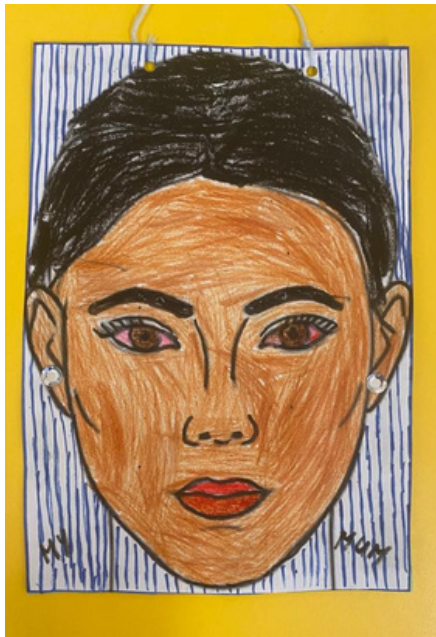
Some children might be scared or unsure at their first visit to the hairdresser. This activity served to address the associated anxiety, alleviate any fear by making the service an ordinary event, and to create a good relationship between the children and the hairdresser. The hairdresser showed them her tools and explained their use in simple terms. The children were allowed to handle safe hairdressing tools and engaged in pretend play. The hairdressers also showed them how to use the tools on themselves and then styled the children's hair in their preferred styles.

At the end of the activity, the children were given the opportunity to create and draw their own unique hairstyle on a colouring sheet. More images are found on the **Il-Bejta** Facebook page.



# KLABB 3-16

## ACTIVITIES



Celebrating the extraordinary girls and women in the world.

In March, our young children at Birkirkara Klabb 3-16 have been celebrating the amazing women that make their lives a million times better. They created gifts for their mums, grandmas, aunts, and their older sisters.

Although women's rights have progressively evolved, we still have to work towards levelling the playing field. Celebrating the people in our lives, is a way to create awareness from a very young age, and to create partnership between all involved.

To all the wonderful parents, siblings, relatives, friends, and our communities that make our lives better – we thank you and we love you!

To all our young children at Birkirkara Klabb 3-16, keep on exploring the world and celebrating others, and also realising that we can all make a difference no matter how small.



# MEET OUR EMPLOYEES



Name: **Mariella Bonello**  
Role: **Coordinator (Human Resources)  
at Head Office**

**1.If you were to write a book about your life so far, what would the title be ?**

The title would be *The Journey of My Life*. I would go through the different stages of my life trying to convey to the reader, the various emotions I feel when I think about them. I would also dedicate the final chapter to the vision I have of my future, how I would like to live the final chapter of my life as an old woman. I think that this title will be perfect to introduce the reader to the contents of the book.

**2. If you were not in this line of work, what career would you want to pursue?**

I would opt to work in a garden centre (nursery). I love cacti and succulents, plants and flowers. In fact, I have a collection of succulents which I love most. I have some indoor plants too. When I am surrounded with plants and flowers, I feel good and manage to give my best.

**3. What's the very first job you had and what did you learn from the experience?**

My first job was as a carer, taking care of people with special needs. This was an experience which taught me a lot. During this period, I managed to refine my soft skills. In my opinion, the most important of these was empathy. I found this valuable when later in my work life I had employees under my responsibility. Empathising with people before taking decisions that would end up having an impact on them, helps in taking the right decisions.

**4. If you had one day left to live, how would you spend it?**

Nothing special or extraordinary. I would spend it with my family and pets, surrounded with those whom I love most.

**5. If you could go to any country (that you have not been to) where would you go and why?**

Italy. Italy is a cocktail of beautiful things. Wonderful landscapes, delicious food, art and history.

# MEET OUR EMPLOYEES



Name: **Christabel Mangion**  
Role: **Klabb 3-16 Coordinator at San Gwann Centre**

**1.If you wrote a book about your life so far, what would the title be? Why?**

Multiple Roads - because I do not enjoy sticking to one area of expertise. I have studied various different subjects in my life and I intend to continue doing so as you never know what opportunities might stumble your way in life.

**2. If you were not in this line of work, what career would you want to pursue?**

My first degree is in Criminology and my dream has always been to emigrate and pursue my dream of becoming a homicide investigator.

**3. What's the very first job you had and what did you learn from the experience?**

My very first job was a Social Support Worker within the Supervised Access Visits at Agenzija Appoġġ. Basically, I supported children during their reintegration visits with their biological parents, at times in prison or even at rehabilitation centres. This job helped me realise how lucky some children are to have a parent or two who loves them dearly and take care of them, whilst others struggle and only wish to have that in their lives. This helped me in my line of work today as a Centre Coordinator, and also as a Maltese Teacher to love, respect and care for every student that I come in contact with, as you never know what they are going through at home. Sometimes, all they are looking for is someone who loves them unconditionally and believe in them.

**4. If you had one day left to live, how would you spend it?**

Without a doubt, at Disney Land with the ones I love the most, having fun with all the characters and enjoying the rides.

**5. If you could go to any country (that you have not been to) where would you go and why?**

Norway. Their recidivism rate is one of the lowest in the world, as they strongly believe in rehabilitation. Apart from that, the Forest Schools! I would love to be part of that and teach in that kind of environment. Lastly, they have the most beautiful landscapes, the Northern Lights, and without a doubt, the cold dark weather which I live for.

# SKOLASAJF VACANCIES



## SKOLASAJF VACANCIES

**Work with us!**

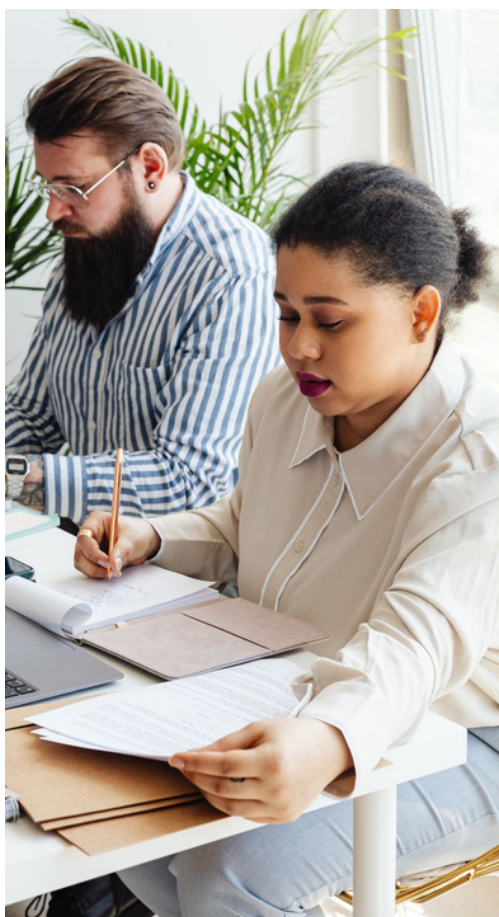
**PLAYWORKER SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 73/2023

**SPORTS PLAYWORKER SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 65/2023

**CHILD SUPPORT WORKER SKOLASAJF 2023**  
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## SKOLASAJF VACANCIES

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Applications close on 21/04/2023



# TRAIN AND WORK WITH FES

**Child Support Worker Course - REF NO: 967**

**Playworker Development Course - REF NO: 968**

**Playworkers Klabb 3-16 (Part-time) - REF NO: 970**

Jobsplus Permit Number: 451-2021

**Tutors Klabb 3-16 (Part-time) - REF NO: 971**

JobsPlus Permit Number: 248/2022

**Child Support Workers Klabb 3-16 (Part-time) - REF NO: 986**

JobsPlus Permit Number: 251/2022



Click on <https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/> to apply, and get more information, including salary rates, eligibility criteria and job descriptions. For any queries, call **22586830/35**, or write to [hr.fes@gov.mt](mailto:hr.fes@gov.mt).

# Photo of the month

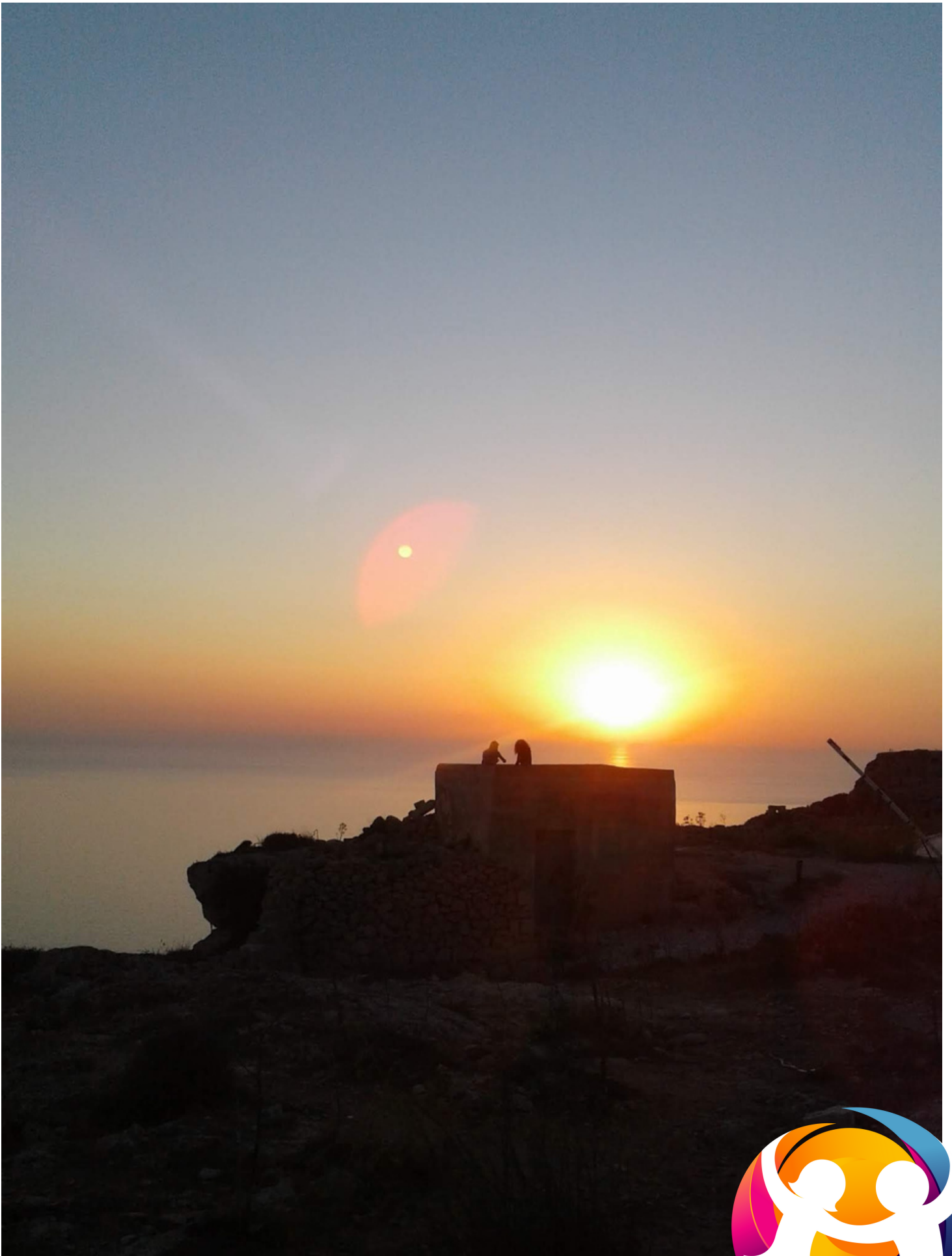


Photo by: Marvic Ellul





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