

INTOUCH

ISSUE 56 - May 2023



Foreword

Just under six weeks to go before Skolasajf 2023 opens its doors to nearly 12 thousand students from all over Malta and Gozo. The second call for applications closed last week. However the request for the service is high and **FES is launching the 3rd and last call for applications, which will be open between 6th June and 13th June 2023.** The number of centres which will be open are spread all over the islands to ensure accessibility. It is also a convenience for parents especially those who are in employment and have to settle their children safely before going on to their workplace. It is also a way how to help children move from the familiar environment of their home, to the Skolasajf environment since the centre will be in their hometown or in a catchment area. Where it was not possible to use a school as a centre due to infrastructure or due to maintenance works, FES will be organising transport for children of that locality to be taken to the centre in the nearest locality.

The recruitment process is mostly done and dusted, with some calls still open for those roles where employment is still an opportunity. These include Playworker (Performing Arts) and Centre Coordinator (Resource Centre). More information on our recruitment portal <https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/>. Working with Skolasajf is not just a part-time job, but also a prospect for self-growth both on a personal and professional level. The environment and the duties involved, engage the workers in transferable skills, and help them acquire abilities that are relevant and helpful across different areas of life. The two interviews presented in this newsletter, with a Skolasajf Centre Coordinator and a Skolasajf Regional Coordinator, provide a good testimony of their positive experience.

Concurrent with the work to launch the Skolasajf service, FES is providing the ongoing Klabb 3-16 and Childcare services. Amongst the following pages one can see the sterling work being done by our staff members in the centres, providing ample learning opportunities within their play environment.

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WORK WITH US - NEW ROLE AT SKOLASAJF

The Foundation for Educational Service (FES) is receiving applications from prospective candidates who would like to work in the role of **Playworker (Performing Arts)** during Skolasajf 2023, starting from 12th July 2023.

The sole remit will be to deliver a performing arts programme according to the genre practised by the applicant, throughout the period of Skolasajf 2023. These Playworkers will be in charge of delivering the sessions to different age groups within the centre/s, which sessions may be part of a final performance by the children for the parents at the end of Skolasajf.

Each eligible applicant will be called for an interview, part of which would be a presentation of the programme which the applicant intends to implement in the centre.

More information can be found at:

<https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/Home/Profile?eq=ygAeyuvS1l4%3d>



Playworker
PERFORMING ARTS
with Skolasajf

REF. NO. 1024
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 73/2023



For more info and to apply:
<https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/>



22586835



hr.fes@gov.mt

CHILDCARE NEW RESOURCES

We are excited to share with you the latest addition to the outdoor toys found at **Id-Denfil Childcare Centre at Siggiewi**; a beauty of a playhouse that will surely fire the imagination and creativity of our little ones. A playhouse provides children with their own world, where they can enjoy being in charge while still being supervised by our Childcare Educators.

It is going to be a safe and controlled outdoor environment where the children will be able to engage in pretend play, while expressing themselves in the various roles that they may want to interpret. Large enough to accommodate more than one child, the setting will encourage children to engage in socialisation with their peers, thus improving their interaction, speech, and values such as sharing and turn-taking. The playhouse environment also motivates them to imitate and make sense of real-life situations.



CHILDCARE ACTIVITIES



The children at **Il-Bejta Childcare Centre** engaged in a delightful activity of making flower soup using various kinds of colorful flowers, cups, and utensils.

With excitement in their eyes, they carefully plucked petals from vibrant blooms, adding them to their cups as if creating a magical potion. Each child selected a unique combination of flowers, discovering a world of scents and textures as they mixed and stirred. The air filled with the sweet aroma of nature as they mixed petals and leaves, creating an enchanting concoction.

With giggles and smiles, the children proudly showcased their flower soups, marveling at the beauty they had crafted together. This captivating experience not only fostered their creativity but also deepened their connection with the wonders of the natural world.

Thanks to all the staff at Il-Bejta Childcare Centre, for creating this exciting activity for the children.



A WINDOW TO THE CREATIVE MINDS

I have an only child and he does not get to meet any children his age. How can I help him to socialise?

I do not work, so I do not need a full day of childcare. Can I use just some hours in the day?

How can I help prepare my child for Kindergarten?

These are all too common questions that we hear from concerned parents. The FES Childcare service is the optimum solution to address these concerns.

The **10am to 2pm** time window is the perfect opportunity to introduce children to social groups, learn about social boundaries, and learn about acceptable behaviour towards other people.

It is also the time that allows them to wonder and explore, as they develop physical and cognitive skills with a range of child-led learning opportunities.

If the above questions are similar to your concerns, call FES on 22586829 to learn more about our competitive rates of the centres, or send us a WhatsApp message on 79523501 .

Vacancies for your child are available especially at **Floriana, San Gwann and Birgu.**

Make the most of these hours by calling:

Floriana - It-Tgħanniqa Childcare Centre on 25982611
San Gwann - Is-Sardinella Childcare Centre on 21372851
Birgu - Il-Kuluri Childcare Centre on 21809285

NEED JUST A FEW HOURS
OF CHILDCARE?

10AM TO 2PM

**COMPETITIVE RATES!
CALL US 22586829**

**SOCIALISATION
&
EXPLORATION**

 **fes**
Foundation for Educational Services

22586800

fes@gov.mt

www.fes.gov.mt

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/childcare-centres/>

Queries to FES can be asked on telephone **22586829** or via email to fes@gov.mt

HOW TO APPLY FOR OUR CHILDCARE SERVICES

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

<https://fes.gov.mt/childcare-centres/>

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/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Childcare-Registration-Form.pdf>

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.

KLABB 3-16

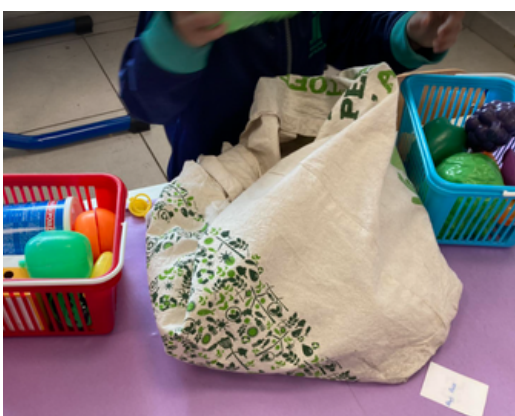
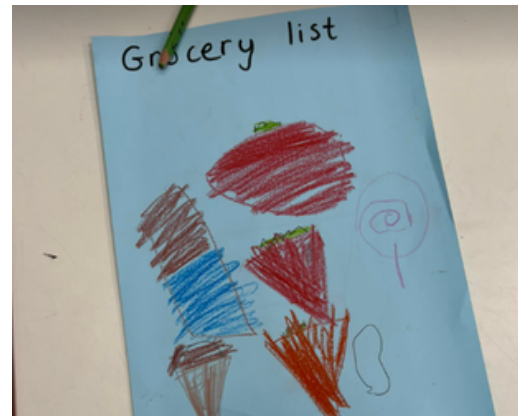
ACTIVITIES

Students from the **Haz-Żebbuġ Klabb 3-16 centre** pretended to be shopkeepers and customers, while practicing their communication and math skills in a fun and interactive way.

Each student took turns being the shopkeeper, setting prices and making sales, while the rest of the class acted as customers and made purchases using fake money. It was great to see the students getting excited about learning and using their mathematics skills to calculate change and keep track of their spending.

All these activities helped the children to practice important skills such as numeracy, life skills, social skills and focus on how to spend money wisely. It also gave them a glimpse into what it's like to run a small business.

Thank you to all the staff at Haz-Żebbuġ Klabb 3-16 for giving our students these opportunities to grow and develop.



MUSIC AND ART KLABB 3-16



The Foundation for Educational Services is collaborating with the NGO **Happy Parenting - Malta (For Happier Children)**, to deliver a music and art programme to students attending the B'Kara Klabb 3-16 Centre. The aim of this collaboration is part of the FES' endeavours to make extracurricular activities such as artistic programmes, more accessible to the children attending the Klabb 3-16 service.

The music sessions are being led by the tutor Ms Liana Agius, who is teaching the students how to play the ukulele. This instrument has been chosen as it is economic, portable and it is easy to play. The ukulele can also encourage students to use their voices more and therefore improve their singing skills. During the sessions, the students will learn how to play the most common chords used on the ukulele i.e. C major, A minor, C7, F major, G major, G7 and E minor. They will also be introduced to reading TABs which is a notation system used to notate melodies for string instruments. At the end of the sessions the students will be able to play simple songs.

Throughout the course of the art sessions, the participants are being encouraged to explore expressive art using the main seven art elements and main eight principles of art to create personal art. They will also have the opportunity to use what they would have learnt to create artworks with a theme. The chosen theme is "Happy Children". Everyone will be free to share their thoughts about the title and create different original artworks about the theme. The artworks can be painted, drawn, or even created digitally. The participants will also create a collaborative art piece.

During the session being shown in the pictures, the tutor Mr Ryan Galea can be seen introducing the children to the basic art elements such as shapes, lines, colour and texture. When using these elements effectively, one can draw anything. In this case the children drew two toucans of different sizes to create an interesting and moving composition.

This project is being funded by the Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS) supported by the Ministry for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations, and Consumers' Rights (MIVC).



ONGOING REFURBISHMENT

At **Il-Ferrovija Childcare Centre in Birkirkara** and at **It-Tghanniqa Childcare Centre in Floriana**, vibrant new signs have been installed, adorning the entrance, and captivating the attention of visitors with their eye-catching design. The signs at our centres draw inspiration from their names, serving as both markers of location and cheerful greetings for the children who visit every day. With vibrant colours and playful designs, these signs add a delightful touch to the centres' exteriors. These signs also play a crucial role in making our centres visually appealing, welcoming, and impactful for the children and families we serve.



MEET OUR EMPLOYEES



Name: **Charmaine Bartolo**
Role: **Centre Coordinator**
(Resource Centre) Skolasajf

1. You are a returning employee to Skolasajf. What drives you to work in this summer service?

I have worked as a Centre Coordinator at Skolasajf for the past 13 years at Helen Keller Resource Centre and at Dun Manwel Attard Resource Center. I also have a full-time job in the field of inclusion, so I see Skolasajf as a chance to further my professional growth and deepen my dedication to the inclusion sector. Engaging in Skolasajf is an activity that I undertake with a strong sense of personal investment and satisfaction. The task entails a substantial amount of effort, yet I do it with genuine passion and dedication, prompting me to undertake it repeatedly over the years. Coordinating Skolasajf in resource centres,

also gives me an opportunity to lead by example, and observe the most crucial aspect of it, which is that of inclusion. This enables me to be easily accessible to the parents and students with respect to any challenges they may have.

2. Can you describe a typical day as a Centre Coordinator (Resource Centre)?

The start of my workday happens at an early hour of the morning, during which I ensure that all students who form part of Skolasajf at the resource centre are provided with transportation and accompanying staff on their designated van. I arrive at the resource centre prior to the students' arrival in order to extend a welcoming gesture. There are times when I also accompany students on the van. Subsequently, I engage in significant phone calls and email sending to address enquiries from both parents and staff members at the resource centre. Additionally, as I collect attendance from each class, I take the opportunity to engage with the students and staff and be there should they require any form of assistance. Likewise, I make sure the school nurse properly delivers students' medications, especially when she is new to the school. Furthermore, I contribute to the organization of activities that are held both inside and outside the centre. The school day ends with dismissal, where all students will be transported to their homes safely.

3. What is your favourite part of your role?

Interacting with employees and students is the highlight of my job. In addition, I like organising educational events with staff members, always for the benefit of the children. The chance to see my pupils' joyous and enthusiastic emotional reactions is beyond measure.

4. What is your least favourite part of your role?

The part of my job that I find least appealing is when my students are involved in an incident resulting in physical harm. This triggers an intense sense of emotion in me, particularly due to the fact that informing the parents of the individuals involved, is a particularly sad aspect of the situation. Addressing problems related to transportation and escorting, during the early hours of the day, also fails to generate a sense of enthusiasm.

5. What advice do you have for someone new to the role?

Working as a coordinator at the Skolasajf resource center can be challenging but very gratifying. You have the opportunity to deal with the unique issues that every student brings to school, and you also get additional chances to use your creative and problem-solving abilities. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing students enjoy themselves while taking part in activities that have been specifically chosen for them.

MEET OUR EMPLOYEES



Name: **Duncan Bartolo**
Role: **Regional Coordinator
Skolasajf**

1. You are a returning employee to Skolasajf. What drives you to work in this summer service?

Skolasajf is an essential service that is offered by FES. The importance of this service can be seen by the number of households that use this service. During Skolasajf, children are engaged in a number of activities that help them further develop skills that they would have acquired during formal schooling. Even though the programme's duration is eight weeks, one can still see children building relationships with members of staff and with other children. One thing that drives me to re-join Skolasajf is when newly recruited employees discover that working

with children is a vocation and not just a summer job. The dedication of the playworkers at Skolasajf is motivational. Having worked in various schools and educational establishments for a number of years, I strongly believe that children at any age should be given the opportunity to improve their skills and abilities. Each year, FES has a Skolasajf theme and one of the roles of the regional coordinator is to see how this theme is implemented within the classrooms. The level of interest and participation in these activities by children can be seen by their attitude and behaviour. The children's faces when they learn something new is another aspect that drives me to work in this service.

2. Can you describe a typical day as a Regional Coordinator?

The role of Regional Coordinator involves visiting a number of Skolasajf centres during a number of stages during the day, for example during arrival, break time and dismissal. Being at a Skolasajf centre during the arrival of children, together with the Centre Coordinator, one can address matters that are of concern within the centre. During the day, I usually join an activity prepared by the playworkers. Following the class visit, I would discuss with the PERs present and the Centre Coordinator about projects that the centre is planning, such as whole-school activities and outings for children.

Finding ways how to improve the quality of the service offered is an essential part of the role. Giving feedback to the centre's administration requires communication with the Head office, departmental managers and liaising with other regional coordinators.

3. What is your favourite part of your role?

A regional coordinator is assigned a number of centres, therefore meeting various centre coordinators, PERs and other employees. Meeting Centre Coordinators who have different leadership styles and different ways of how to create a fun and safe learning environment for the children, is my favourite part of the role.

4. What is your least favourite part of your role?

I do not look forward to being stuck in traffic in the summer heat in order to travel from one centre to the next. This is why centres are generally grouped within the same area around Malta.

5. What advice do you have for someone new to the role?

As a regional coordinator, one must be ready to listen to all the stakeholders within a centre, namely the Centre Coordinator, the employees, the parents, and the children. When we listen to each other, we are making each other feel included, thus, it gives each other the opportunity to solve problems together.

SKOLASAJF VACANCIES

Click on <https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/> for the **FULL LIST of vacancies**, to apply, and get more information, including salary rates, eligibility criteria and job descriptions. For any queries, call **22586835**, or write to hr.fes@gov.mt.

PLAYWORKERS DEVELOPMENT COURSE - REF NO:1035

Expires On: 14/06/2023

PLAYWORKER WITH EXTRA RESPONSIBILITIES (RESOURCE CENTRE) SKOLASAJF 2023 - REF. NO:1042

Jobsplus Permit Number: - 71/2023

Expires On: 23/06/2023

CHILD SUPPORT WORKER SKOLASAJF 2023 - REF. NO: 1043

Jobsplus Permit Number:- 75/2023

Expires On: 23/06/2023

CHILD SUPPORT WORKER (RESOURCE CENTRE) SKOLASAJF 2023 - REF. NO: 1044

Jobsplus Permit Number: - 76/2023

Expires On: 23/06/2023

PLAYWORKER SKOLASAJF 2023 - REF. NO: 1045

Jobsplus Permit Number:- 73/2023

Expires On: 23/06/2023

PLAYWORKERS (PERFORMING ARTS) SKOLASAJF 2023 - REF. NO: 1046

Jobsplus Permit Number:- 73/2023

Expires On: 23/06/2023

SPORTS PLAYWORKER SKOLASAJF 2023 - REF. NO:1047

Jobsplus Permit Number:- 65/2023

Expires On: 23/06/2023



Photo of the month

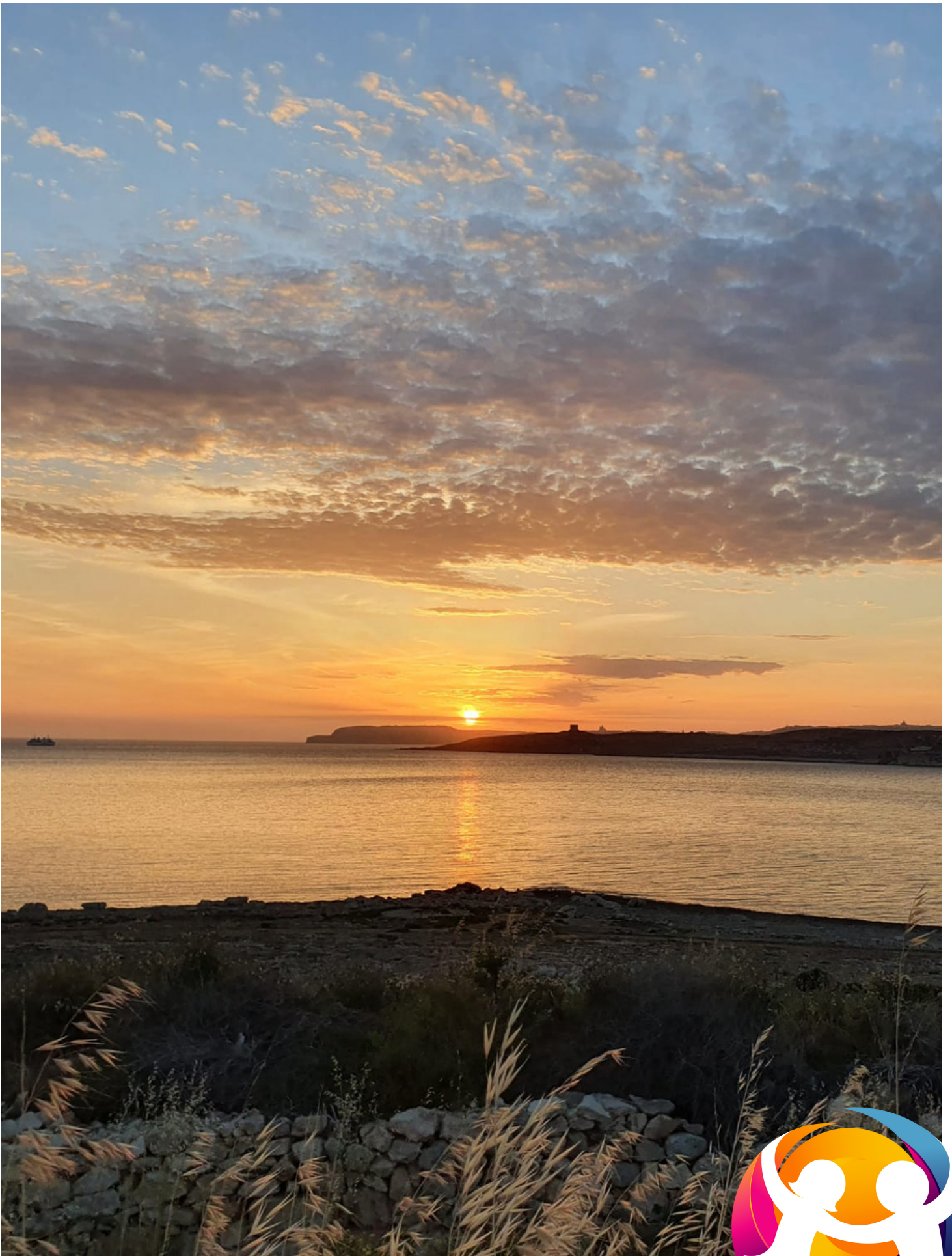


Photo by: Lara Cachia Chircop





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