

VOPS Summaries 2024

Vops ref. Number	Name of organisation	Vo number	Name of project	summary
A1.01	Alpha Table Tennis Klabb	VO/2360	Malta Table Tennis Skills	Table Tennis as a sport is slowly but consistently developing in the Maltese Islands. The main contributor to this development is the investment that the athletes and coaches are undergoing to seek exposure to foreign training and competition opportunities. This exposure allows the athletes to expand their skill set and advance in the sport. However, considering the geographical location of the Maltese Islands and the huge expense involved to take a group of athletes for a training camp away from our shores, the availability of such exposure is somewhat limited to a handful of athletes. This project will organize a series of five training camps over a period of one year at the ALPHA TTK training hall, that will be led by foreign coaches who are qualified in the area. The project will ensure a wider local reach amongst the athletes, create more activity at the club, increase the skill set of the players and also of the coaching staff, include persons who do not have the monetary backing to travel, encourage more people to start the sport of table tennis, and bring together the club community in working for this specific aim.
A1.02	Blue Door Education	VO/2165	Supporting the Literacy of Vulnerable Groups in Malta	Throughout the work BDE does on field with students, teacher volunteers do their best to create differentiated materials from scratch to accommodate the diverse needs of students who come in. However, many students come in with little to no literacy with alphabets and numbers which makes it difficult for them to adjust and learn the language efficiently. BDE volunteers try their best to support them, however there is a scarcity in material that is geared towards supporting adults in learning basic language skills. In addition, the majority of video material available online shows a person writing on a whiteboard. This is an unrealistic method, as it excludes basics such as opening the book, writing on lines, taking the margins into account, position of fingers and hand when holding and using a pen or pencil. This project mainly focuses on developing a video literacy pack that teaches individuals how to write and identify different letters of the alphabet which they could watch using their smartphones or any other accessible device as much and as often as they wish. These videos would be developed and tested by teachers to be further improved before disseminating to the wider community by January 2025.
A1.03	Dar Guzeppa Debono	VO/0674	Strengthening our Services to the Community	The primary objective of this initiative is to refine and expand the offerings of Dar Guzeppa Debono (DGD) to better align with contemporary needs. Presently, DGD House is undergoing infrastructural changes, dividing the facility into two distinct sections with individual entrances, thereby providing more privacy and more dignity to the residents. One entrance will exclusively serve the respite center, while the other caters to DGD's additional services. Previously, DGD faced constraints in hosting groups consistently since whenever they accommodated a vulnerable individual, the facility couldn't be made available for groups or other attendees. The modifications, with separate entrances and areas, facilitate concurrent operations - providing for vulnerable individuals while also running extensive group programmes for the wider community. This 11-month project encompasses the following endeavors: - Setting up a modern kitchen for the respite centre - Acquiring new equipment to inaugurate a service tailored for youth and to be used for other services to the community - Launching a programme dedicated to youth engagements - Procuring tools and resources to bolster the administrative and voluntary facets of DGD The anticipated outcomes of this venture are threefold: rejuvenation of the respite centre, introduction of youth-centric initiatives, and better equipping DGD's volunteers, enhancing the overall service quality of the organization.
A1.04	Emergency Fire & Rescue Unit (EFRU)	VO/0018	Capacity Building for Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Deployment	As the years 2022 and 2023 have demonstrated, the incidence of earthquakes that affect built-up areas and thus the communities living therein is increasing, even in close geographic proximity to our country (e.g. Turkey in February 2023, Morocco in September 2023). In the local sphere, as the construction industry remains strong, the potential for collapsed structures remains ever-present. In both scenarios, rapid response by appropriately equipped and trained teams of first responders is essential to give the best chance of survival to any casualties who may have found survivable voids in the collapsed structures. In rescue, this response discipline is called Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) which depends on technical equipment to ensure that rescuers prioritise buildings (based on survivor probability) and determine how to access buildings based on the survivor location. Such information is often not possible to gain visually but requires technical search equipment. This project seeks to increase the capacity of the EFRU and another NGO in this respect. Months 1-2: Market research on needed equipment Months 2-5: RFQ issuing for required equipment Months 4-8: Procurement of equipment Months 7-8: Equipment familiarisation & training Months 8-10: Preparation for a rescue simulation Month 11: Final rescue (USAR) simulation
A1.05	Fondazzjoni Saghtar	VO/1824	Online Platform for Educational Programmes	Fondazzjoni Saghtar is establishing itself as a leading voluntary organisation in the education field. To-date Fondazzjoni Saghtar has primarily focused on projects aimed towards its publications. The foundation is now planning to widen its services in line with its remit and target another one of its professional arms - the provision of courses to enhance knowledge within members of the community and providing individuals the ability to further advance their skills and develop new ones. This project shall focus on creating an online platform through which members of the organisation can register for and access the list of courses being offered together with the course descriptions. The platform shall also include a hybrid system of online and face-to-face learning with the ability to upload relevant resources as well as an integrated reporting system
A1.06	ghaqda festa ghajn tuta	VO/1462	multi purpose stage (inclusion for all people)	Our organisation is an on going organisation, organising a wide variety of cultural events. Unfortunately in Gozo we do not cater for the involvement of equality amongst our youths and community members. Our localities are nowadays full of people with different abilities. Our organisation is aiming to buy a stage with suitable ramps and barriers to be accessible by people with mobility problems, eye sight problems and other disabilities. During our time organising such events, it's been long that our organisation was thinking about such stage to be bought. Now that our organisation has created the group Tamborini Gaudos with the use of the VOPS funding scheme, we are now looking forward for the inclusion for all people so to incentive our community members, especially those with different abilities not to be ashamed, and accessibility on stage will be a priority. The stage will be a platform for our organisation to organise an annual event to create a concert performing live in public.
A1.07	ghaqda Filarmonika Prince of Wales Ow	VO/0699	Investing in a new interactive way of music tuition	To equip our music teaching facilities with modern furniture to house our numerous music scores as well as facilitate the modern teaching of music. We are also embarking on a project to make music accessible to all students, even those who cannot physically make it to the club by bringing music tuition to their homes via remote teaching. For this purpose we are setting up an IT system for online learning. It is our aim to help society understand how music can help our children develop further their skills and knowledge. How playing in a band improves social and cognitive skills as well as prepare our youths to work as a team with other colleagues. The IT system will also help our students interact with our twin society in Augusta Sicily and help with master classes and specialized technical exchange without having to travel abroad. Finally, the furniture and equipment needed for this project will help network with other clubs and voluntary organizations to liaise and communicate better with each other.
A1.08	ghaqda Muzikali u Socjali Madonna tal-Karmn	VO/0181	Music is for Everyone	Fgura, with one of the youngest populations in Malta, offers a unique opportunity for our band club to provide free music education. Our mission has always been to offer high-quality instruction. To further enhance our services and accommodate a diverse student body, our committee has initiated a new project. Our goal is to adopt a 'train the trainer' approach, equipping our current and incoming educators with contemporary training. This will enable them to effectively teach a wide range of students, including those with different backgrounds and abilities. Fgura's diverse demographics, with people from various ethnicities and backgrounds, combined with its thriving young population, create a compelling need for adaptable and inclusive music education. In the first quarter, we will focus on educator training and launching a marketing campaign to attract new teachers who share our passion for music education. Subsequent quarters will see educators imparting their knowledge to students, while our ongoing marketing efforts aim to expand our reach and offer free music education to more youths. This project reflects our commitment to nurturing a love for music and ensuring accessible education for the benefit of our community's young musicians.
A1.09	Gozo SPCA	VO/0069	New Van for Gozo SPCA	This application is for the provision of a new van for Gozo SPCA for use by the Centre Manager and other volunteers in the furtherance of activities such as: Transportation of animals to and from vet appointments Collection of donated items for resale at Charity Fairs Feeding of stray cat colonies Rescuing of lost and abandoned animals After seeking the required quotations it is hoped that purchase of the van would be complete by March 1st 2024. Following purchase of tax and insurance, signwriting on the van should be complete by April 2024 with the van being fully operational shortly afterwards.
A1.10	MALTA CADETS CORPS (MCC)	VO/1032	Drone SAR - Enhanced Search and Rescue Capability	This project aims to enhance the capabilities of the Malta Cadets Emergency fire rescue unit , Malta Police Force in rendering services to the local community, specifically in the context of lost person search using drones. Objectives: 1. Procurement of FLIR-Capable Drones: to improve search operations, especially at night Procurement process as per standard requirements set by the Maltese Government. 2. Comprehensive training program development: collaborating with reputable organizations, such as Flyrite, to provide certified training courses, both at the local, international levels. 3. Simulation Exercise: to evaluate the effectiveness, deployment capability, and readiness of the trained operators and equipment. It will serve as a practical test of the skills acquired during training and allow for adjustments in procedures if necessary. Benefits and Outcomes: 1. Enhanced Search and Rescue Capabilities: It will enable us to conduct more efficient and effective search and rescue operations, especially in challenging conditions. 2. Highly Skilled Operators by providing certified training and licensing, - drone operators capable of handling complex search and rescue missions. 3. Improved Community Services by enhancing the capabilities of the project partners in locating missing persons, thereby improving public safety and security. 4. Operational Readiness: Simulation exercise will ensure our preparedness for real-life scenarios, streamlining response efforts and potentially save lives.

A1.11	Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement	VO/0039	The First Walk Under the Rainbow	<p>We aim to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first pride march in Malta, through a multi faceted approach that will capture the essence of change and celebration the evolution of LGBTIQ+ rights and advocacy in Maltese society. Utilising photography, film and journalism, we will remember the vibrant and not-so-colourful memories and moments from the first Pride event in 2004.</p> <p>Additionally, we plan to hold a roundtable discussion, conduct intimate interviews with individuals who attended the first Pride, chronicling their memories, experiences, perspectives, and the evolution of LGBTIQ+ rights since then. The project will consist of personal narratives with visual elements, offering a powerful testament to the journey of acceptance and societal transformation. The gathered memories, images, and documentation will be compiled into a book, exhibition & social media content, providing a nostalgic perspective, promoting awareness of LGBTIQ+ issues in Malta, and encouraging youth activists to follow the footsteps of their predecessors. By honoring this significant milestone, we aspire to highlight the progress made, the challenges overcome, and the resilience of the LGBTIQ+ community in Malta</p>
A1.12	Malta Medical Students' Association	VO/0417	WellnessChecks360	<p>The project, named 'WellnessChecks360', will consist of organising several health-checks in our capital city Valletta, as well as at numerous smaller localities to promote public well-being and early disease detection. These health checks will consist of blood glucose, blood pressure, cholesterol, body mass index, and lung function tests. These testing opportunities will provide a well-rounded assessment of an individual's health and help detect potential issues early. Centrally located, accessible venues will be chosen, such as community centres or local parks, with necessary facilities for testing. A workshop for medical students will be carried out beforehand, training the students on how to conduct these tests in a safe, efficient manner. We will collaborate with healthcare professionals to ensure that accurate information is being given to patients and to discuss test results with them, offer guidance, and provide referrals for further medical attention if needed. Educational talks will also be carried out. Distinct testing stations for each check will be set up, with the appropriate equipment and supplies, and a clear flow will be created for patients to pass through, to prevent long waiting times. The event will be promoted through local media, social media, and community organisations to ensure that community members are fully informed.</p>
A1.13	National Council of Women Malta	VO/0020	Empower: Building a Modern Inclusive Website for our Community	<p>"Embrace, Engage and Empower" project enables the National Council of Women (NCW) to embark on a transformative journey to revitalize its online presence and better serve the community. This project serve as a gift to the community on the 60th Anniversary of NCW as the current website, no longer reflects the dynamic and progressive nature of our organization. It is time to usher in a new era of connectivity, showcasing our work and accomplishments while fostering networking opportunities across various sectors, other voluntary organisations and causes. Our revamped online platform will be aesthetically pleasing, user-friendly, and equipped with cutting-edge technology to ensure a seamless browsing experience. This will be enhanced by adequate marketing. It will act as a powerful tool to communicate our mission, goals, and the impactful work of the NCW to a broader audience. Students will have easy access to important historical information, enriching their studies and understanding of women's contributions throughout history. Additionally, our platform will facilitate cooperation and networking opportunities with both national and international voluntary organizations, fostering collaboration and amplifying our collective impact. By launching our project during our 60th year, we aim to leverage this momentous occasion to attract new members who are eager to contribute their unique perspectives and talents</p>
A1.14	Nature Trust - FEE Malta	VO/0048	Robb I-Għagin Park/WRC attractive & reachable for volunteers and visitors	<p>Whilst the Xrobb I-Għagin Sustainability Park has been open for some years and now the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre is about to be opened, due to its location, 20 minutes walk uphill from the nearest bus stop, the park and WRC are not so easily reached by volunteers and visitors who do not have their own means of transport. Besides that the WRC still needs shelving and certain equipment to be bought to be able to provide the best experience to the wildlife needing rehab, general public, schools and volunteers alike. For this reason this project aims to provide the park with a minibus van to help pick up and transport volunteers, educators and visitors to and from X Gh and also provide necessary supplies to provide a better experience to all at X Gh. The main aim is to buy a second hand minivan possibly with a wheelchair ramp installed (if it is found on the market). By providing transport it is intended to attract first and foremost more volunteers and give more people the opportunity to help with the rehabilitation of wildlife - something which is being increasingly endangered plus understanding/experiencing what education for sustainable development is.</p>
A1.15	RISe Foundation	VO/0834	WEE Hub – Wellbeing, Education, Employment Hub	<p>Building on a decade of experience The RISE Foundation's embarking on a project whereby the core objective is to foster understanding and acceptance of the once-offender within the community, reducing risk of reoffending and the associated cycle of victimization. Experience has shown that for offender reintegration and rehabilitation to be effective, the rest of society and the once-offender's social network must be included in the reintegration process but this would require educating and equipping the public on how to harmoniously accept a once-offender back into society. The Foundation's established a premises in Tarxien - which will be named WEE Hub – Wellbeing, Education, Employment Hub - to consolidate educational resources, including facilities to educate the general public about restorative justice practises and promoting empathy towards those re-entering society. Targeted training will also be offered, such as to professionals in the field. This will also be a hub for service users' education, a safe space for service users' social networks, staff training, volunteers' and placement students' learning experiences, and continuous professional development sessions. It'll also be offered to other VOs for classroom/meetings use.</p>
A1.16	Organisation of Culture and Ecclesiastica	VO/2016	Growing Together as One Community	<p>The Senglean Organisation of Culture and Ecclesiastical Patrimony (SOCEP) is a prominent organization in Senglea, which takes pride and responsibility in preserving and promoting the tangible and intangible heritage of Senglea. Regrettably, through our work we noticed that there's a decline in interest for craftsmanship and work carried out by hand, resulting in a fading traditional craftsmanship. This initiative emphasizes experiential learning through workshops and hands-on sessions. Spanning from March 2024 to January 2025, SOCEP in collaboration with Grupp Gwardjola, will roll out six workshops focused on technical, artistic and craftsmanship abilities. These sessions include: - Carpentry; - Metal works; - Electricity; - Fibre crafts; - Arts; and - Gilding. Each workshop aims to engage at least eight young participants, targeting especially vulnerable young adults who live in the three cities. The work carried out in these sessions will be displayed during an event to be held in February 2025. A small publication about craftsmanship in Senglea and its historical importance will also be published. Recognizing potential educational or financial barriers for some participants, these courses, not typically found in mainstream secondary schools, will be offered free, unveiling hidden talents among the youth.</p>
A1.17	Sezzjoni Żgħażaġh Pawlini Munxarin	VO/1350	Community Heritage Artistry: Empowering, Inclusive, and Sustainable	<p>Our project is a vibrant initiative that aims to celebrate and enrich the cultural fabric of our community. Through collaborative artistry, we will create a series of stunning banners that will adorn our traditional community feast activity every year. These banners will not only enhance our cultural heritage but also serve as a symbol of inclusion, unity and pride. At the heart of our project lies the spirit of volunteerism. We will engage volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, providing them with the opportunity to work and learn from talented artists in crafting these banners. By doing so, we hope to instill a deep sense of belonging and purpose within our community, fostering a culture of volunteering and active participation and also instill artistic and cultural expression in our community. We will document the project's phases through short-video clips on social media to serve as a learning curve for those interested. Additionally, we will publish a comprehensive book detailing the entire creative process, ensuring that our project's impact extends far beyond our community. Ultimately, our project seeks to promote unity, creativity, and social inclusion while preserving and celebrating our rich cultural heritage. It is a testament to the power of volunteerism and community</p>
A1.18	Soċjeta' Filarmonika Santa Marija, Most	VO/1605	Revival of our Music heritage	<p>The aim of this project is to focus on the music from different dimensions, which as a committee we truly believe that Musical Heritage belongs to everyone. 1) Documentation, Archiving & Preservation – This phase will incorporate the digitalization of our repertoire of old musical transcripts and Marian Hymns of Local Composers. 2) Revival of Hymns -This will involve various collaborations with musical partners and experts in order to compose words which will compliment old hymns. 3) Recording – This will involve the recording sessions themselves but will also include the editing of the recording sessions before finalising the project. 4) Investing in Musical instruments and equipment – We believe that this will bring a wide range of personal, cultural, educational, and recreational benefits, making it a meaningful and worthwhile endeavor not only to the direct stakeholders but to the community at large. 5) Restoration and upgrading of our Musical Archive – This will incorporate the restoration works and upgrade to this piece of furniture with the aim to extend life of this valuable piece.</p>
A1.19	St John Rescue Corps	VO/0223	Safe Home	<p>This project consists of an initiative to further improve the St John Rescue Corps (SJRC) Volunteers ability to protect the safety of society whilst also promoting a culture of prevention and awareness in health and safety to the public in general. This project will allow for the purchase of specialised equipment to primarily deliver a more timely, efficient and effective intervention in support of The Civil Protection Department (CPD) and the Health Authorities during emergencies and have better capabilities to safeguard the Public during large events. This equipment will also be used to deliver enhanced training for our Volunteers to improve their competences for their personal, social and professional development and also to use these skills to assist people in need during time of distress or illness. SJRC Volunteers, using the same equipment, will deliver Health and Safety demonstrations to the general public, youth organisations and vulnerable groups within our society. The equipment consists of Rapid Assembly Emergency Tents and related furnishings, power generators, and specialised training equipment used to safely and in a controlled manner, simulate fire and medical emergencies in domestic scenarios.</p>

A1.20	St. Philip Band Club AD 1851	VO/0037	Banding Together: 173 Years of Community Spirit	<p>Since 1851, the St. Philip Band Club has been an important settlement for locals, youths & musicians wishing to embark on a journey of volunteering. Within these 173 years, society has seen significant changes, both locally & internationally, with the band club living throughout all these moments and is now an integral part of local history; living to tell the story to future generations.</p> <p>With this project, we wish to produce a series of audio-visual, compelling documentations discussing society in context of the volunteering world, past social challenges, and how they shaped today's volunteering world within band clubs & beyond. We shall be collaborating with multiple local organizations such as sports and wellbeing organizations run by volunteers, and with historians, who shall be explaining the challenges and changes throughout these years, how society adapted and how a successful volunteering history of 170+ years implies hope and support to the community. The project envisages an investment in videography and production equipment for these documentaries and for future educative productions as well as suitable and officially recognized videography and videoediting courses for interested members with the aim of producing this project 'in-house' while achieving a production of high-quality standards.</p>
A1.21	TEN08 Group	VO/1566	Traditional Regatta - Behind the Curtain	TEN08 seeks to provide an immersive glimpse behind the scenes of Malta's traditional regatta, a biannual event celebrated on March 31st and September 8th. With its roots tracing back to the era of the Knights of Malta, this cherished sporting tradition remains deeply ingrained in the communities surrounding the Grand Harbour. Unfortunately, this cultural treasure often receives inadequate attention from the authorities. Our project aims to rectify this by producing a series of episodes to be shared on our social media platforms and presented to relevant authorities. These episodes will encompass various aspects of the regatta, including boat construction, training, pre-regatta gatherings at clubhouses, and the overall atmosphere leading up to the event. We believe that this initiative will not only deepen appreciation for this time-honored tradition but also stimulate interest among volunteers and aspiring rowers, thereby ensuring its continuity for generations to come.
A1.22	The Malta Autism Centre	VO/0520	Outdoor Learning	The project aims to create the following: 1. A sensory garden in a designated outdoor area. (Exploring Our Local Ecosystem). 2. A sensory-inclusive playground. The outdoor learning project for autistic students would be designed to provide a stimulating and therapeutic environment while addressing the unique needs of these students. Also, creating a sensory-inclusive playfield for autistic students will enhance their development, encourage social interactions, and provide a safe, enjoyable space for recreation and learning.
A1.23	The Scout Association of Malta	VO/0311	The Pipers' Trail	San Gwann Scout Group focuses on providing the best possible informal education and raises today's children into independent responsible young citizens in an inclusive manner. The children are taught event planning and budgeting, a myriad of other essential skills that can be applied to modern day living. The project revolves around the idea of bringing back a familiar sound to the streets of San Gwann and beyond, Scottish highland music with the classic pitch of the bagpipes. The bagpipes have not been played in our town for the past 15 years, San Gwann Scout Group wishes to regenerate it and participate actively with other voluntary organizations such as the local Band Club, fostering a healthy relationship. This project will see us participate in our local feast, local civic events and church parades. It will also promote a culture of volunteering and the participation in volunteer activities among children and youths, as an aspect of personal and social development, allowing the youths to become versed in the musical language. The band will also expand performances to other towns, simulating a Pipers' Trail, raising interest in the instrument, music and scouting, creating a new source of potential recruitment wherever the band goes
A2.01	Arternita tas-Santissimu Kurċifiss- Il-Belt	VO/1760	Restoration work for the newly restored oratory and an inauguration ceremony	The Oratory and its belongings, including paintings and statues has gone through a programme of maintenance and restoration. But the place is yet without any furniture. With the help of this fund, the Archconfraternity will be closing this ambitious project by installing permanent wooden niches for one of the most beautiful artistic Good Friday statues. Will also install an inner door (antiporta) with the main part consisting mainly of glass pane, so that people passing by the front iron door can still see the devoted statue of Our Lady of Sorrows from outside. Thirdly, showcases will be done with the aim to demonstrate some of the important artifacts owned by the 377 year old Archconfraternity for both their artistic and historic value. If this is done, the Oratory will be complete and the Archconfraternity is bound to organise at its own expense, events to launch this project, including a concert and an open weekend for the general public to admire. The oratory is intended to be used for socio and religious functions in the future.
A2.02	Dreams of Horses	VO/1617	Wellbeing services to the community RAIN or SHINE	DREAMS OF HORSES is dedicated to the rehabilitation of unwanted horses and animals which in turn help all members of society. It offers empowering Equine Therapy and experiences promoting health, mental wellbeing, social and educational care services to community. The initiative being proposed focuses on the completion of the newly built multi-purpose indoor facilities which will provide improved welfare services for the rescue horses and facilitate the human welfare needs during therapeutic sessions. This includes the installation of the fixtures, i.e. external and internal doors and windows. This project would provide a much needed permanent indoor facility enabling the organisation to offer wellbeing services all year round while also assisting in the wellbeing of the rescue horses. Presently, the operations are highly weather dependent as all therapeutic and educational programs are done outdoors. In Summer, sessions are reduced to avoid the hottest hours of the day while in Winter we experience days of rain, strong winds, storms and cold weather. Consequently, therapists, professionals, NGO's and social groups are often hesitant to commit with us on therapeutic programs for their vulnerable clients due to unexpected cancellations. This project would assist us to provide a more reliable service and help more disadvantaged people in society.
A2.03	Families for Christ Community	VO/1383	Accessibility for All	Established in 1996, the Families for Christ community is a close-knit group bonded by charismatic and spiritual principles. Guided by the profound belief that life's journey becomes more meaningful when shared, this community is committed to sharing the transformative impact of Christ in their lives and extending a guiding light to others. Families for Christ consistently organizes meetings and activities thoughtfully designed for couples and families, fostering spiritual growth and community bonds. However, the community recognizes a pressing need to address accessibility to their premises. In this spirit, the 'Accessibility for All' project takes center stage. The project's key feature is the installation of a vertical platform lift, a vital addition designed to enhance inclusivity. This transformation ensures that individuals with disabilities, compassionate volunteers assisting the elderly, and parents or guardians with young children can access the premises with ease. The 'Accessibility for All' initiative signifies their unwavering commitment to making their community accessible to everyone, regardless of their physical abilities, enabling all to participate fully in their spiritual journey and communal life.
A2.04	Għaqda tal-Armar Madonna tas-Sokkor	VO/1837	Providing a Safe Premises for the Community	The proposed project involves the restoration of the façade of the parish centre in Kercem which is administered by our organisation. The works proposed include the replacing of stone balustrades with wrought iron railings, the replacing of marble external stairs, the replacing of the main door, the replacing of the concrete columns, and the upgrading, re-plastering, and rendering of external walls. This premises was built in the early 1970s and incorporated the parish hall and various classes. Over the years this building purpose was altered. It serves primarily as the headquarters of Għaqda Armar Madonna tas-Sokkor where members meet daily, and feast decorations are stored. The parish hall is still in use and is used by our organisation and various other local voluntary organisations. Over these fifty years no restoration was ever conducted, and the façade is dire need of works to eliminate imminent danger to community members visiting the place. The stone balustrades and concrete columns need replacement as soon as possible in view of irreparable deterioration. Works are required as well on the external stairs and walls. The main wooden door will be replaced with a safe aluminum new door.
A2.05	Għaqda tan-Nar San Bartilmew Ghargħu	VO/0639	Fireworks Star Press Machine	This project involves procuring and installing a cutting-edge fireworks star press machine. This initiative aims to enhance our fireworks production capabilities, ensuring a seamless transition from procurement to installation while prioritizing safety and efficiency. The goal is to integrate the new machine successfully, allowing us to craft captivating displays for the annual feast of St. Bartholomew and other community celebrations. The aim of the Fireworks Star Press Project is to significantly enhance our organization's fireworks production capabilities while fostering a robust culture of volunteering, thereby enriching our community spirit, ensuring sustained innovation in celebratory events, and fostering greater unity within our organization
A2.06	Home Away from Home	VO/0774	Accessibility for YOUth	The project is primarily intended to part-fund an elevator to facilitate access to three floors in our building, on which many of our Youth Centre activities take place. The elevator will open up the building for those who have mobility issues and save them from being confined to just the lower floor of this old building that sadly has multiple staircases. Given its ancient construction, the lower floor is the only easily accessible floor for people with mobility problems. However, there are barriers to accessibility that cannot be solved by building a ramp or installing an elevator: issues of poverty, mental health (e.g. autism) and diversity (such as race, religion and sexuality) set in motion mechanisms of exclusion in society and can pose significant stumbling blocks to access services like ours. Breaking down these barriers requires a different approach. In a parallel process to the lift going up, we will take the opportunity to reflect upon such issues and consciously bring them into the open to identify what might be keeping certain youths from accessing our Youth Centre, for we believe it is just as important to talk about such barriers to accessibility, instead of sweeping them under the proverbial carpet.

A2.07	Malta GC Unit Sea Cadet Corps	VO/0779	generating open space and ventilation at Gun Powder Magazi	The Malta Sea Cadets is a recognized VO established in Malta since the 1960s. Since 1995 it has been operating from the GunPowder Magazine in Kalkara as its premises, this is a historical building on a long lease from Lands Department. This place is an incredible piece of architecture with its unique characteristics which draw youths and adults with a love for military and adventure. The place is surrounded by a ditch which unfortunately over the years due to priorities and funding issues has been left neglected, this project is looking into clearing this area entirely to gain much needed space which would allow many more activities to be held at the unit including outdoor camping and opening the unit to the local community and other organisations to use. Off-course this will also serve to protect this historical site and enhance its value for the Maltese society at large. More over to compliment this increase in capacity we would like to install ducting for adequate ventilation in the kitchen again to improve the capacity of the place for further use.
A2.08	Ma' Filarmonika Santa Marija zebbug gh	VO/0238	Elevate Access, Ignite Creativity...Together	In line with the obligations set out under the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act, Cap. 413 of the Laws of Malta, administrators of NGOs bear the responsibility to ensure that all facilities under their purview are universally accessible. This commitment is not only a statutory obligation but aligns with our organization's broader ethos and our commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. Our organisation has just completed a new Creativity Hub, a new space for our volunteers to meet and actively engage in various programs, workshops and volunteering initiatives/opportunities. Regrettably, this new space is accessible only by stairs. Thus, we propose a project to extend the existing passenger lift to this Hub, ensuring accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges and broadening volunteer opportunities in an inclusive setting. We also want that this project will lead to an innovative venture. For this reason, the investment in the passenger lift (that will give access to volunteers with mobility issues) will be also complemented with the: (1) Installation of Voice Annunciator (2) Installation of Braille Tags (3) Installation of Tactile Floor Pathways (complemented with a dedicated workshop) to assist visually impaired individuals in navigating through different sections of the hub. Full details and documents in further sections across our proposal.
A2.09	Socjeta Santa Marija u Banda Re Gorg V	VO/0260	Investing in Facility Upgrades, Accessibility, and Modernization	Our organization has recently undertaken a significant project to expand and modernize our warehouses, where we store an array of street decorations used during festive occasions. These decorations encompass a rich historical legacy, with many pieces dating back over a century, and a meticulous restoration process is either underway or planned for their preservation. These cherished decorations include ornate street string lights, decorative ivy, intricate statues, elegant pedestals, and other exquisite elements such as baroque bandalori and pavaljuni. Within our newly constructed three-story warehouse, we've incorporated dedicated workshop spaces, providing our volunteers with the opportunity to nurture their talents, delve deeper into the arts, and gain hands-on experience in an optimal environment. We also conduct workshops led by professional artists, imparting valuable expertise and guidance to volunteers. We recognise the need for an industrial-grade mechanical lift within the warehouse to complete this endeavour and ensure the safe handling of these priceless street decorations during festive events. This essential addition will enable our volunteers to transport the decorations securely, preventing any damage to these exquisite works of art. After a comprehensive evaluation of the various transportation options for these delicate and weighty artefacts, installing an industrial lift emerged as the safest choice.
A2.10	National Federation of the Past Pupils	VO/1250	Social Inclusion: Upgrading Accommodation for Homeless Youth	Mentorpower is a programme leading to independence for homeless youth and also offers accommodation. This project aims at upgrading the existing accommodation premises, as well as, extending our residential services to offer a place as an emergency shelter for young people who are roofless for a temporary period until we assist them in accessing accommodation and any support to help to live independently. The project is designed to refurbish our two homes (Paola and Valletta) which cater for homeless young people. The project has already started during this year through the dedication of various volunteers who worked together to plan the refurbishment works
A3.01	Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS)	VO/0939	Findings and Lessons Learnt From the Field on Disaster Risk Reduction	In 2024 MOAS will have conducted 10 years of innovative humanitarian projects across the globe. The aim of this submission is to carry out a research project aimed at the collection, collation and organising of the experiences and lessons learnt on the ground, specifically in relation to Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention. This project will result in the publication of a resource that can assist other humanitarian organizations and civil protection agencies with their activities in disaster struck regions. It is anticipated that extreme weather phenomena will increase over the coming years. The devastating flooding in Libya in September 2023 is one such example. Other natural disasters such as earthquakes have also been on the increase, especially in 2023 where severe seismic activity has been reported in Turkey, Syria, Morocco and Afghanistan. In each of these instances, the repercussions in terms of destruction and loss of life have been tremendous. MOAS has been active in the field of Search and Rescue and Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention since 2014. We aim to document our experiences together with the contributions of other organizations in the field to create a publication to ensure that actors are better prepared and more cohesive.
A3.02	Missio Malta	VO/1178	kappelli.com - Interactive walk-through into our heritage	This research project (1st Phase) focuses on enhancing the user experience on kappelli.com, a platform showcasing Maltese chapels. Despite their unassuming appearance, these chapels hold significant historical and cultural value, deeply rooted in the island's religious heritage. The project aims to gather detailed information about these chapels to provide an immersive user experience. The goal is to develop an online application, accessible as a website and mobile app, featuring over 300 chapels. Each chapel will have its dedicated page with insights into their spiritual, historical, and architectural significance. Users can explore these chapels through engaging 3D virtual tours. Additionally, the project supports missionaries and provides users with a better understanding of Maltese churches and patron saints. It also generates funds for Missio through panoramic tours of chapel surroundings, contributing to sustainable projects in disadvantaged regions. In summary, this project offers a captivating journey into Maltese heritage, combining history and technology to create a meaningful user experience. The research will be done on the first 50 chapels of the project
A3.03	Notarial Archives Foundation	VO/1505	Creation of policy document for the Notarial Archives Foundation	The objective of this project is for the Notarial Archives Foundation (NAF) to create a policy document that will govern its operations at the Notarial Registers Archive (NRA). Indeed, the NAF, in the agreement it reached with the Government, committed itself to drawing up documents that outline the goals, policies, and standards that it intends to implement whilst leading the operations at the NRA. The NAF may supply the OCVO with a copy of this agreement, if requested. The creation of this policy document would require a period of intense research that will be split into different phases. The first phase which is of interest to this proposal will tackle matters relating to access and security procedures required to protect the NRA and its manuscript collection. This research will establish the foundations of the policy document and will address important criteria to regulate volunteer participation and public access, while also establishing conservation and preservation standards. The research will work to identify all stakeholders, such as staff, volunteers, researchers, and different communities within society who will benefit from the policies to be laid out in this document.
A3.04	The Children in Need Foundation	VO/0830	The Difficulties associated with foster care in contemporary Malta	The aim of the proposed study is to identify some of the difficulties that are associated with out-of-home care (foster care) in contemporary Malta. Whilst one cannot think of 'psychological' and 'social' dimensions of living in foster care as distinct spheres of research, the proposed study concentrates on challenges that are related to the latter and everyday relations and interactions that those in foster care experience. The research thus not only seeks to identify specific difficulties that individuals in foster care may experience (ex. social stigma resulting in difficulties interacting with peers), but also to contextualise these challenges within both the broad Maltese social/cultural context and more specific settings where these challenges are experienced (ex. at school). This is a complex and multidimensional topic that requires qualitative methodologies to be adequately explored. In-depth interviews with individuals who have lived in foster care, foster carers, and therapists and/or other professionals who work in the field should be the main method for collection of 'data' in the form of first-hand experiences and narratives. The utility of identifying these challenges would be both 'academic' - because the area remains unexplored - and 'practical' - because following their identification these challenges may be addressed.
A4.01	Down Syndrome Association M	VO/0159	D.S. Achieve Program	The "D.S. Achieve Program" is a comprehensive initiative designed to empower and engage two distinct age groups: 13 to 16-year-olds and 17 to 25-year-olds. It will provide a structured and enriching environment for these young individuals, fostering their personal and educational growth while also promoting intergenerational connections within the community. For both groups, the program offers a range of activities, including sensory experiences, personal hygiene education, arts and crafts workshops, cultural exposure, computer skills development, and cooking classes. All sessions will be age-appropriate to the group. These activities aim to encourage mindfulness, emotional regulation, self-expression, and independence. Moreover, the program emphasizes mentorship from positive role models and sharing life wisdom. It reaches out to the broader community, visiting seniors in elderly homes to participate in activities, creating bridges between generations. A culminating event at the program's conclusion allows participants to share experiences, and celebrate personal growth. The "D.S. Achieve Program" is committed to holistic development, preparing both age groups for a successful and fulfilled future.

A4.02	għaqda Muzikali Immakulata Kuncizzjor	VO/0194	Harmonizing Abilities: Bridging Music and Arts for Inclusivity	The project, "Harmonizing Abilities: Bridging Music and Arts for Inclusivity," represents a pioneering effort to champion inclusivity and innovation within Malta's cultural and artistic community. Its focal point is the installation of a wheelchair platform lift on the Music Platform, a ground breaking addition that will empower disabled and wheelchair-bound musicians to actively participate in the annual festa concert—a milestone achievement in Malta. This inclusive concert serves as a platform to not only showcase the musical talents of disabled individuals but also to commemorate their artistic prowess through a dedicated arts exhibition. Scheduled for 2024, this event coincides with the 45th anniversary of the Immaculate Conception Band Club, aligning seamlessly with the organization's core operational principles of Innovation and Inclusion. Moreover, the project seeks to foster community connections by extending invitations to entities such as the Malta Wheelchair Dance Sport Association, Dar tal-Providenza, Villa Bianca, Agenija Sapport, and the Guardian Angel School. Through the universal languages of Culture, Arts, and Music, "Harmonizing Abilities" aspires to unite individuals of all abilities and backgrounds, fostering a more inclusive and harmonious society.
A4.03	Hospice Malta	VO/0062	Hospice Malta Outreach for Day Therapy Services	Forming part of the community palliative care services, the Day Therapy Unit (DTU) provides the right setting to support Hospice patients, catering for their medical, psychological/emotional and their social needs in a safe environment through a number of structured therapeutic activities offered. It also serves as respite support for their caregivers allowing them to rest whilst knowing that their loved ones are receiving professional care. As part of a complete package of care as well as to ensure that the DTU objectives are met, free of charge transport to and from the DTU is provided through the Hospice van, volunteer drivers using their own means of transport and through paid professional transport service provides. The challenges of maintaining a reliable volunteer driver network have grown steadily. Concurrently, the number of patients benefiting from Hospice Day Therapy Unit has been on a steady rise. With the move to new premises, we anticipate the capacity to accommodate even more patients. Considering all this, it becomes imperative to expand our transportation options. Therefore, our project seeks to secure additional resources to engage third-party transportation providers who can extend their services to our patients, ensuring they can continue to access the Day Therapy Unit.
A4.04	Malta Paralympic Committee	VO/1616	Powering through Life	Powering through Life is an innovative project aimed at transforming lives and communities through a Para Powerlifting and strength and conditioning development programme. By creating a space equipped with adapted sport equipment that is accessible to persons with and without disabilities, Powering through Life will serve as a platform to bring together an inclusive sporting community and to promote the virtues of adopting healthy and active lifestyle habits. The project will see MPC equipping a space with the latest equipment in Para Powerlifting and strength and conditioning. The equipment will be carefully selected to achieve the underlying objective of ensuring such equipment may be used effectively by persons with various mobility impairments, ranging from amputees to spinal cord injuries, spina bifida, and cerebral palsy, amongst other conditions. By creating such a space, persons with disabilities will be afforded the opportunity to join a welcoming and safe environment to practice sport and forge friendships within the sporting community. Powering through Life will also contribute to MPC's objective of developing Para Powerlifting and strength & conditioning programmes in line with its strategic objective of focusing on a handful of core Para Sports that are sustainable within the local context.
A4.05	Marsaskala FC	VO/1909	Football Training Programme through Inclusion of Children with S	This project aims to adopt a holistic approach to the football training sessions that as a club, we provide to children with special needs. Hence, through this project we aim to not only focus on improving their technical ability when it comes to football, but also to take into consideration their holistic development. Hence, we will require the following necessary equipment and support which facilitates this holistic development; - An audio system on pitch; boosts the moods of the players, creating an energetic atmosphere (Sound Productions, 2023). - Sessions with a sports psychologist; will help kids increase their energy and motivation levels and can help them to develop their relationships (Cooks-Campbell, 2022). - Showing players their previous performances will pinpoint what they have previously done to succeed, thus, they will be able to decide what strategies to adopt for their upcoming performances (Sport Northern Ireland, 2023). For this reason, we will be recording the sessions, and will need to refurbish a media area where players can watch their own performance and carry out discussions accordingly. - We will provide players with the necessary football equipment, as training sessions require the appropriate equipment to be effective (Douglas, 2023).
A4.06	Siggiewi Rowing Club	VO/2036	Inclusive Rowing for a Healthier Self and Society	Project will make on-water rowing practised in a safe setting accessible to a wide variety of people including (i) physically/visually impaired individuals who benefit from the perspective of inclusion, a means to a healthier self, or as prospective competitive athletes; (ii) individuals with health/medical conditions (e.g. obesity, diabetes, etc.) who benefit from being physically active through an inclusive/enjoyable/friendly non-impact non-weight bearing full-body sport practised outside in small groups, possibly as part of their medical treatment/rehabilitation. It addresses an important lacuna that, although sports and physical activity are known to be beneficial for all, in Malta training protocols offered in most sports entities are designed solely for competitive athletes rather than vehicles for inclusion and a healthy self. Special populations having health, mobility and/or stamina issues due to medical reasons, obesity, disability, age, etc. find such settings intimidating/unwelcoming/unsuitable. Project is based on the well-researched and scientifically-proven immense benefits to mental/physical/social wellbeing accompanying rowing practised OUTSIDE/ON-WATER (significantly superior and more inclusive to indoor training) INCUSIVELY, WITH/ALONGSIDE CLUB ATHLETES. Apart from educational and outreach initiatives, this project seeks to purchase FISA-standard very safe/stable/wide coastal-rowing sliding-seat boats and promote their regular use as a vehicle to true inclusion and better health for everyone.
A4.07	Special Olympics Malta	VO/0165	Healthy Communities, Athletes Screening	Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® is a fantastic initiative that focuses on providing free health screenings and education to Special Olympics athletes in an inclusive and enjoyable environment. Over the last year, it has achieved several significant milestones, including: 1800+ Free Health Screenings: The program has delivered over 1800 free health screenings to Special Olympics athletes. These screenings are crucial for identifying and addressing health issues that may affect the athletes' well-being. Training for Health Professionals: More than 50 health professionals and students have been trained through this program to treat individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID). This training is vital as it equips healthcare providers with the knowledge and skills needed to provide better care to people with ID. Community Impact: The impact of the program extends beyond Special Olympics athletes. Healthcare providers who receive training through this program take these newly acquired skills back to their practices. This, in turn, leads to improved healthcare for people with intellectual disabilities, benefiting not only Special Olympics athletes but also individuals with ID in their local communities. The health screenings offered by Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® cover four key areas: Fit Feet (Podiatry): Opening eyes (vision & eye sight) Happy Smiles (dentistry) Fun Fitness (physical Therapy)
A4.08	The Malta Trust Foundation	VO/1761	Dan Jien	In line with the Foundation's mission to support young persons in challenging situations, the project's main goal is to raise awareness and share information and knowledge on young people on the Autism Spectrum. The focus is on the young generation to instil a level of awareness amongst them on the challenges that autistic individuals face daily. It is expected that awareness will generate a better understanding of the different realities that exist; and that in turn, understanding is expected to contribute towards acceptance which is key to achieve social integration of the individuals diagnosed with ASD. Through this project, the experiences of an 11-year-old boy with ASD is delved into, through the creation of a video production based on a script created by the same child. The video production will then be used by Child Participation Experts (CPEs) during workshops within schools which will be discussed amongst student's councils within Malta's schools to create awareness and generate a level of understanding amongst these cohort of a life of an ASD child. The project also foresees the creation of a resource tool that can be used after the project comes to end to ensure sustainability.
A4.09	Voice for Inclusion Gozo Association	VO/1823	Step by Step	Persons with disability often lack or have a poor kinesthetic sense. They do not know the position and movement of their body. This makes them scared of tripping and falling all the time, creating a lot of anxiety and stops them from exploring their environment. This project seeks to help persons with disability to overcome this problem by providing them with a setup where they can be trained to understand their body, in a safe and controlled manner. To ensure the best continued and sustainable utilisation of this equipment, an agreement has been reached with Ms. Pauline Grech Head of the Sannat Special unit, who agreed to house and use such equipment during schooling hours for the benefit of the students with special needs attending this institution, but also making it available for the activities organised by the NGO after school hours. Thus with the implementation of this project we would not only be in a position of providing much needed OT services to the Gozitan community of children with special needs, but also helping the highly trained and experienced staff of the special unit at Sannat primary to provide a more comprehensive service to these children.