



Minutes of the AGM held on 24th May 2024 at 8pm at The Meeting Place

1. WELCOMING ADDRESS + ROLL CALL

- a. A Small introduction was given by President Annabelle Xerri. She apologized about the road closures due to the feast which the committee was not aware of, but that on the bright side visitors will be able to enjoy the fireworks.
- b. AX explained that ERX is at the EUD GA in Belgium and DX at a project in Romania, therefore they were unable to attend the AGM. However, the committee wanted to find a date for the AGM before the summer months and this was the most suitable date.
- c. She thanked all the members for attending the AGM and gave a brief of the agenda.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBERS & EMPLOYEES

- a. AX went through the committee members for 2022-2024, namely Annabelle Xerri (President), Loran Ripard Xuereb (Vice President), Sarah Bezzina Wettinger (Treasurer), Emma Ripard Xuereb (Secretary) and David Xuereb (Board Member), who were elected in 2022.
- b. AX also mentioned that the Association employs 2 employees, namely Gianmarco Santirocco and Riccardo Morganti. The Association also has Petra Bezzina Wettinger as part of the team who works voluntarily as the Association's Graphic Designer.
- c. AX also introduced the members of the subcommittee DYAM, namely Joann Spiteri, Melissa Aquilina, and Loran Ripard Xuereb.

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3. Roll Call

- a. A note was taken of all attendants present. 16 people were present, 3 of whom were committee members, 3 of whom were non-members, and 2 sign language interpreters Ms Sharon Mifsud & Ms Maris Bonnici, who interpreted the AGM whilst also being members of the association. One of the members present joined online via Google Meet.

4. MINUTES OF AGM 2023

- a. AX explained that the minutes of the 2023 AGM were sent via email to all members. A short video summary of the minutes was also shared.
- b. No questions were asked about the minutes of the AGM 2023.
- c. The minutes were approved by 6 members. 7 members abstained because they did not view the minutes.

5. DEAF YOUTH ASSOCIATION MALTA

- a. Joann Spiteri (JS) and Melissa Aquilina (MA) gave a brief presentation about the Deaf Youth Association Malta (DYAM).
 - i. JS gave a short introduction and explained the agenda
 - ii. MA explained all the activities that were held by DYAM
 - 11th April 2023: Easter Ta' Qali
 - 28th June 2023: MFCC EXPO
 - 5th-6th August 2023: Team building and project meeting DYAM & DPAM

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- 10th-20th August 2023: EUDY Camp and GA in Portugal (Melissa Aquilina and Petra Wettinger)
 - 26th September - 1st October 2023: CyberBullying Project by EUDY in Malta
 - 7th December 2023: Crafts and Bingo
 - 20th December: CyberBullying Online LIVE on IG
- iii. MA also gave a brief about all the sub-committee meetings held:
- 6th January 2023
 - 14th February 2023
 - 3rd April 2023
 - 14th June 2023
 - 26th July 2023
 - 5th August 2023
 - 1st September 2023
 - 18th September 2023
 - 11th October 2023
 - 17th November 2023
- iv. MA & JS explained the plans of DYAM for 2024:
- 13th to 20th July 2024: Deaf Camp Jaspel for Deaf and CODA children in Slovakia
 - 20th to 27th July 2024: Deaf Camp Jaspel for Deaf and CODA juniors in Slovakia
 - 27th July to 3rd August 2024: Deaf Camp Jaspel for Deaf and CODA youth in Slovakia
 - 21st to 31st July 2024: EDBY Camp in Germany
 - 12th-18th August 2024: EUDY Children Camp in Germany

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS:

No questions were asked by members.

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6. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2023

- a. The financial accounts were presented by Sarah Bezzina Wettinger (SBW). Highlight points:

- This year the income is much less than last year, due to the fact that we had less projects going on.
- Thankfully the expenditure was also much less than last year, this is because most of the projects were coming to an end so we had less expenses.
- In light of this we still had a surplus.

- b. Facts:

In summary, as at 1st January 2023, the Association had €156,431. During 2023, the deficit was that of €9,521 (€35,639 income - €45,150 expenditure = (€9,521), ending the year with an accumulated fund of €146,910.

	2023	2022
Income	35,639	102,387
Expenditure	(45,150)	(92,562)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(9,521)	9,825
Accumulated Fund at 1st January	156,431	146,606
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(9,521)	9,825
Accumulated Fund at 31 December	146,910	156,431

- c. Income:

- Similar to 2022, the majority of the income also came from Erasmus+ projects.
- This year showed a slight decrease in Membership, Donations and Sales, we had some nice donations from Carisma, Airport and different Schools
- Interest has also increased, since we had more money in the banks
- Other Revenue comes from the MCVS fund and A2e

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	2023	2022
Erasmus Projects Grants	23,289	99,845
Membership, Donations and Sales	2,190	2,210
Interest Income	365	138
Other Revenue	9,795	194
Total Income	35,639	102,387

d. Expenditure:

- i. SBW explained that in 2023 we had to buy some small filming equipment, the budget for this came from the Erasmus projects
- ii. SBW explained that €1561 for the Subscriptions, Fees & conferences is made up of the membership fees for WFD, EUD & EUDY. A part of this is also received back from the MCVS fund.
- iii. The majority of the expenses, namely general and office expenses, refreshments and catering, travel as well as wages, consulting and professional fees, were mostly due to the Erasmus+ projects. SBW explained that these were paid from the projects themselves.
- iv. SBW also explained that the travel expenses also included Loran's trip to South Korea where he represented DPAM in the WFD AGM. This trip was funded by MCVS.
- v. It was clarified that the Wages, Consulting and Professional fees expenses primarily consist of the salaries of DPAM's two employees, Gianmarco and Riccardo, who have been instrumental in securing project wins. Additionally, this expense category includes reimbursements provided to Deaf individuals for their contributions to various projects.
- vi. SBW reminded all the members that everyone is welcome to participate and work on different projects.

	2023	2022
Small Equipment	274	0
Subscriptions, Fees & Conferences	1,561	1,337
General and Office Expenses	1,473	4,811
Refreshments and Catering	1,251	8,389
Travel	4,872	8,673
Wages, Consulting and Professional Fees	31,224	55,289
Casual Wages	4,418	13,881
Bank Fees, Tax and Duties	39	102
TOTAL	45,160	92,562

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- i. SBW explained the cash at the bank has gone up significantly in 2022. This is the result of many successful Erasmus projects.
- ii. SBW explained the balance sheet to the members, clarifying that the grant prepayments are a result of Erasmus typically disbursing funds in advance for projects. This explains the fluctuation in the Association's financials, where one year may exhibit a significant surplus, followed by a comparatively lower surplus the next year.
- iii. SBW explained that the Liabilities are pending invoices for Erasmus Projects.

	2023	2022
Assets		
Inventories of Batteries and Alarm Clocks	233	281
Cash at bank and in hand	209,480	127,817
Liabilities	80,308	75,523
Grant Prepayments	50,513	2,620
Net Assets	146,911	156,431

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS:

No questions were asked.

The financial accounts were approved by 14 members, while 3 members abstained (because 4 members joined later).

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7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2023

The Administrative Report for 2023 was presented by Loran Ripard Xuereb (LRX). He gave a run down of the Activities that were organized in 2023:

- a. January - Roller Skating
- b. January - Sign Teach Online Project (UK)
- c. February - Meeting with Fr Martin about mass accessibility
- d. February - Pizza Night
- e. March - Palm Sunday Mass at Dar tal-Providenza
- f. March - Loran meeting with Claudia Faniello
- g. March - Pancake Project (Malta)
- h. March - Sign Teach Online Project (Czech Republic)
- i. April - Good Friday Walk Puttinu Cares
- j. May - Dorianne EUD General Assembly (Sweden)
- k. May - Majjistral Nature Park
- l. June - Deaf Association AGM 2023
- m. June - Sign Teach Online Project (Malta)
- n. June - Dive into History 360 Video (Heritage Malta)
- o. June - Expo at MFCC
- p. June - Pancake Project (Italy)
- q. June - Pancake end of project (Malta)
- r. July - Loran delegate at WFD General Assembly (South Korea)
- s. August - Annabelle & Loran Meeting with FITA
- t. August - Reboot Project Team Building event (Gozo)
- u. August - Melissa delegate EUDY GA Portugal
- v. August - Petra and Melissa EUDY Youth Camp Portugal
- w. September - Comino Evening
- x. September - Festa Lingwi
- y. September - Filming & launch of Deaf video with KLSM (IDSL)
- z. September - Pasta Night (Deaf Week)
- aa. September - Farsons tour + dinner (Deaf Week)
- bb. September - Euro Pride
- cc. September - EUDY in Malta (Cyberbullying Project)
- dd. October - Loran & Melissa Panel at University of Malta workshop on Inclusive Languages
- ee. October - Deafblind Training with AILSM
- ff. October - Loran & Joann Lesico International Conference of Sign Language Teachers (Edinburgh)
- gg. November - Deafblind training part 2
- hh. December - Christmas party

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QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS:

Christian asked whether it would be possible to introduce this Deaf flag in schools so that children can learn more about deaf culture. LRX said that this is a brilliant idea and that the committee will take note of it.

Gianmarco said that the flag is very nice, but he asked if there was another flag before. LRX replied that before the year 2000, there was another flag but this never became official. There were people trying to get it approved, by going to the UN or to the WFD. But this is the first time that there is an official flag, which was approved during the last WFD assembly.

Keith referred to what Christian mentioned about schools, and Keith suggested to print the flag on t shirts or bags so that people can see it and it will become more recognisable. LRX replied that there are keychains, caps, stamps, and other merchandise available on amazon.

The Administrative Report was approved by 17 members and 2 members abstained (2 members joined later).

8. OUR PROJECTS

- a. Loran Ripard Xuereb (LRX) presented the projects that the Association worked on during 2023.
 - i. Cyberbullying
 1. LRX explained that this project is being worked on by Joann and Melissa obo DYAM. And Malta is the leader of this project.
 2. LRX further explained that the first activity happened in September and that another activity is coming up in February.
 3. The project relates to how to keep yourself safe from online bullying. This project is targeted to help youth understand what they can do about cyberbullying. This information was not always available in the past. But this project is making this information more accessible.
 - ii. Muffin
 1. Alexia gave a presentation about the project
 2. She explained that the project is about marine life (Marine, Underwater and Fish For INclusion)
 3. Started in September 2023 and will finish in 2026

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4. She showed the sign name to the members and explained the reason behind the sign name (5 countries including Malta, Spain, Scotland, Croatia, and Italy).
 5. Participants: Gianmarco, Riccardo, Alexia & Emma
 6. Alexia explained that they will be creating new signs in LSM for different marine life.
 7. The committee also showed a video which ERX prepared beforehand. ERX explained that she is currently in Belgium and that she can't be present for the AGM. ERX explained about the transnational meeting that took place in April in Spain.
 8. ERX, GS, RM and an ichthyologist (fish expert) attended the transnational meeting.
 9. ERX explained that she really enjoyed her time in Spain, and she is hoping that Alexia will be able to join her for the next transnational meeting.
- b. Pending Projects - LRX presented the projects that the Association has written and explained that the Association is still waiting for feedback regarding approval.
- i. Erasmus+ Projects:
 1. DIGIT - Awaiting Approval - Deaf Inclusive Games and Informal Training
 2. ADAPT - Awaiting Approval - Art, Deafness And Pilot Trainings
 3. BANOFFEE 2 - Awaiting ApprovalLRX invited Gianmarco to explain about this project. He explained that during the first project, Malta and France created the educational videos, and that others were also interested to do the educational videos. This time round, we created 2 different projects, 1 will be submitted by Spain and the other will be submitted by Italy. Malta will create educational videos for Spain and Italy as well as more videos for Malta.
 - ii. SOS Project:
 1. ACE (Active Citizens for Europe) - Awaiting Approval - LRX explained that this will be an exchange between Iceland and Malta. LRX also explained that Malta & Iceland are very similar because both countries have a similar population and both are also islands.
 - iii. LRX invited all members to participate in projects if and when they are approved.
 - iv. LRX also mentioned that these projects benefit the Association by helping it generate more surplus and continue to grow.

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QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Matthew expressed confusion about how Iceland and Malta could be considered similar, noting that Iceland is a much larger country. LRX responded that he had visited Iceland and pointed out that the two countries share more in common than one might think—such as their relatively small populations and island status.

9. ACTIVITIES 2024

Loran Ripard Xuereb briefed the members on the upcoming activities planned for the months ahead in 2024:

- a. Pastizzi making - LRX explained that the Association has to postpone this activity which was scheduled for June. Tentative date will be after summer.
- c. EUDY General Assembly (Norway 13th-16th June)
- d. Summer BBQ / Comino (tbc)
- e. Sicily for a day (Oct / Nov 2024)
- f. Deaf Week (20th - 26th September 2024)
- g. Festa Lingwi (22nd September 2024)
- h. LRX also invited members to come forward with any ideas that they might have for any activities.

10. OTHER MATTERS

- a. Committee 2024 -2026 - AX explained that the Association was supposed to have an election this year. However, since no members showed interest in participating, the current committee will continue as it is for another two years.
- b. Proposals - AX explained that the Association did not receive any new proposals
- c. Employee Contracts - AX explained that Gianmarco Santirocco and Riccardo Morganti are working with the Association under a work contract. Gianmarco's salary is partly funded by the A2E Jobs Plus Funds, while Riccardo's wage is fully covered by the Association. AX emphasized that both personnel are essential for the Association, as their work is crucial in writing and participating in new projects. This helps the Association generate more surplus and create more

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opportunities for the Deaf community in Malta. Furthermore, AX noted that if more projects are secured, Riccardo's wage would be paid from the project funds.

11. CONCLUSION

- a. AX thanked the committee for their time and dedication, despite their personal commitments, and emphasized that she is proud to work with such a brilliant team.
- b. She thanked DYAM for their hard work, especially in involving the deaf children. She also expressed gratitude to Petra for her voluntary work on the posters..
- c. AX also thanked the sign language interpreters for their hard work and patience
- d. She thanked the members for their support, for coming to the AGM and for participating in the events that the Association organizes.
- e. LRX joined AX in thanking her for her hard work and jokingly expressed gratitude for her diligence in checking all the posters and booklets.
- f. AX also showed the booklet that the Association worked on due to the Reboot Scheme by Agenzija Zaghzagh project. This booklet is about deaf awareness.
- g. Samuel Attard and Chris Sacco, two members of the Association, gave a generous donation of €400 to the Association instead of wedding souvenirs.

The AGM was adjourned at **10pm**.

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LSM VIDEOS:

1. WELCOMING ADDRESS

- a. <https://youtu.be/MyiRsVkyMgk?si=1n-4j0E17Nv2CNn>

2. COMMITTEE MEMBERS & EMPLOYEES

- a. https://youtu.be/TfNpnPaX20Y?si=AmCLV6l8l0YidsF_

3. Roll Call

- a. https://youtu.be/deTJI_9aHLU?si=zXrQSD0QFxAA7udb

4. MINUTES OF AGM 2023

- a. https://youtu.be/v-O5Hfh-D-Y?si=yDmxUB8JRArOx-_y

5. DEAF YOUTH ASSOCIATION MALTA

- a. <https://youtu.be/yZolqHEHGN8?si=-Gj5PQLsPb2XCOCy>

6. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2023

- a. <https://youtu.be/dW1wRChLwAU?si=ya2GdVNq3D9fsaPz>
- b. <https://youtu.be/0BnsQGnx3do?si=DzAYwh2gDT3TSIp0>
- c. https://youtu.be/xSFGx4uwo2A?si=xBf0plUb5zbhEjX_
- d. https://youtu.be/oXoHKyhjH2M?si=nurDrsGF6rTHFIB_
- e. <https://youtu.be/bJhJzjajA4Y?si=eM7LIWdvwmAcQ11n>

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7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2023

- a. <https://youtu.be/Ek-J0luNZaw?si=2A1nlaonnwv3Hrli>
- b. <https://youtu.be/CT8zuJ214aQ?si=RmRzacRnQ9s-Spog>
- c. <https://youtu.be/N19VBpV1-u4?si=MMT81uLcjElpNfng>

8. OUR PROJECTS

- a. <https://youtu.be/snuMVqvvhL0?si=PwDVg-QDV5eRXgG>
- b. <https://youtu.be/bnVKX4JWL38?si=KgSUwq1URjYeHleC>
- c. https://youtu.be/J0OKg_tIAc8?si=meA6nMzmNmpLrTLV

9. ACTIVITIES 2024

- a. <https://youtu.be/6lv6gMRzsEk?si=cdh9xTQglRTT3s63>

10. OTHER MATTERS

- a. <https://youtu.be/IFdtZNtJZ5o?si=qpaLbuRKGQZqEweR>

11. CONCLUSION

- a. <https://youtu.be/efiVmcPhxGE?si=HemixdE2CjM07ydT>