

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

| PROJECT                   |                                                           |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Participant:              | Kunsill Lokali Xghajra - Xghajra                          |
| PIC number:               | 936767025                                                 |
| Project name and acronym: | Alsómocsolád, Xghajra, Moravske Toplice Cooperation - AXM |

| EVENT DESCRIPTION             |                       |                                 |   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Event number:                 | EV1                   |                                 |   |
| Event name:                   | Meeting in Xghajra    |                                 |   |
| Type:                         | Workshop, study visit |                                 |   |
| In situ/online:               | In situ               |                                 |   |
| Location:                     | Malta, Xghajra        |                                 |   |
| Date(s):                      | 02-04.09.2025         |                                 |   |
| Website(s) (if any):          |                       |                                 |   |
| Participants                  |                       |                                 |   |
| Female:                       | 32                    |                                 |   |
| Male:                         | 27                    |                                 |   |
| Non-binary:                   |                       |                                 |   |
| From country 1 [Hungary]:     | 21                    |                                 |   |
| From country 2 [Slovenia]:    | 21                    |                                 |   |
| From country 3 [Malta]:       | 17                    |                                 |   |
| ...                           |                       |                                 |   |
| Total number of participants: | 59                    | From total number of countries: | 3 |

**Description***Provide a short description of the event and its activities.***DATE: 02-04. 09.2025, PARTICIPANTS: 21 Hungarian, 21 Slovenian guests****ACCOMODATION: Sensi Hotel, Triq Il-Mahsel, Wied Il-Ghajn****LOCAL TOPIC: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT****SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL: SDG 6, „ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL”****AGENDA:*****Day 1 – 2 September 2025*****Arrival, Networking and Opening Session****08:30 – 09:00**

Arrival of the Hungarian delegation at Malta International Airport and transfer to hotel

**09:00 – 10:00**

Hotel check-in and breakfast

**10:00 – 17:30**

Informal networking and community-building activities:

- Familiarisation with local environment (coastal area, countryside)
- Optional recreational and cultural activities (beach, water sports, guided walks)
- Informal discussions among participants (Packed lunch provided)

**18:00 – 19:30**

Arrival and check-in of the Slovenian delegation

**20:00 – 22:00**

Joint welcome dinner

**20:30 – 21:30****Official Opening Session**

- Welcome speech by representatives of Xgħajra Local Council
- Introduction of project objectives and partner municipalities
- Presentation of participants

***Day 2 – 3 September 2025*****Local Governance and Exchange of Good Practices****08:00 – 10:00**

Breakfast

**10:00 – 12:30****Workshop Session: Local Challenges and Community Development**

Venue: Xgħajra Local Council

Presenter: Rodrick Zerafa, CEO Sem Malta (Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta)



Topics:

- Presentation of Xghajra municipality
- Presentation of SDG 6 „Ensure Availability And Sustainable Management Of Water And Sanitation For All”

Workshop:

- Local governance and public service delivery
- Environmental and community challenges
- Exchange of experiences among partner municipalities (HU, SI, MT)



**13:00 – 17:00**

Study visit to La Valletta

Focus:

- Urban development and cultural heritage
- Sustainable tourism practices
- Role of EU policies in local development

**17:30 – 19:30**

Boat trip in the harbour area

(Informal networking and exchange of experiences)

**20:30 – 22:00**

Dinner

***Day 3 – 4 September 2025***

**Cultural Heritage, Sustainability and Project Closure**

**08:00 – 09:00**

Breakfast

**09:00 – 12:30**

Study visit to the Three Cities (Cospicua, Vittoriosa, Senglea)

Focus:

- Preservation of cultural heritage
- Historical urban infrastructure and fortifications
- Community identity and local development

**12:30 – 16:00**

Visit to Mdina

Focus:

- Sustainable tourism management
- Heritage protection and urban planning

**16:00 – 17:30**

Return to hotel and preparation for departure

**18:00 – 19:00**

**Closing Session and Final Evaluation**

- Summary of activities and key outcomes
- Exchange of feedback among participants
- Strengthening future cooperation and partnerships

**19:00 – 20:00**

Farewell dinner

**19:15 – onwards**

Transfer to Malta International Airport and departures

presentation of Mr Rodrick Zerafa, CEO SEM Malta (Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta - <https://sem.gov.mt/information/servizzi-ewropej-f-malta>):

**Title:** *"SEM, the European Green Deal, and SDG 6: Malta's Role in Shaping a Sustainable Europe"*

Let me begin by introducing **Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta**, or SEM. We are Malta's **one-stop shop** for all things EU—funding, policy, and public engagement. Whether you're an individual, business, NGO or public entity, we're here to **help you understand and access EU opportunities**. Through our **Project Support, Communications and Policy** units, our mission is simple:

**Make the EU more understandable and more accessible.**

SEM also manages **Europe Direct Valletta**, part of the EU's wider effort to bring Europe closer to its citizens by answering questions and sharing updates on rights, opportunities, and EU programmes. Through SEM and Europe Direct, we make sure people don't just hear about the EU—they can take part in it.

**The European Union: Values and Voice**

The **EU is a Union of values, vision, and vitality**. Made up of 27 Member States, it was created out of a desire for peace and shared prosperity. Today, it is a global leader in human rights, climate action, and the digital economy.

Of course, the EU faces real challenges—economic inequalities, climate change, and geopolitical instability among them. But it meets these with strong strategies:

- The **European Green Deal**,
- The **Digital Decade**, and
- The **NextGenerationEU** recovery plan.

Malta has benefitted enormously from EU membership—not only through funding, but also through having a **seat at the table**, where our voice matters equally. We've used EU programmes to invest in our economy, improve our environment, and empower our communities.

**The European Green Deal**

Launched in 2019, the **European Green Deal** is the EU's boldest step yet toward a **climate-neutral future by 2050**.

It is more than just a climate strategy—it is a **roadmap for transforming our economy, industry, and society** to be greener and more sustainable.

Key goals include:

- **Climate neutrality by 2050**
- **55% emissions reduction by 2030**
- **Accelerating renewables** and phasing out fossil fuels
- **Circular economy** practices
- **Cleaner air and water**, and
- A **fair transition** that leaves no one behind

The EU is backing this with serious investment:

€275 billion from **NextGenerationEU**, €20 billion from the **Just Transition Fund**, and more from carbon pricing revenues.

**For Malta**, the Green Deal is both a challenge and an opportunity. As one of the most **water-scarce** and **energy-dependent** countries in Europe, we're particularly vulnerable to climate impacts. But we also have strengths:

- We're investing in **green mobility**, **energy interconnectors**, and **rainwater harvesting**
  - We've seen one of the **steepest drops in emissions** in the EU in 2025—down 6.2% compared to 2024
- Even small member states can lead in sustainability.

**Sustainable Development Goal 6: Water and Sanitation**

Let's now zoom in on **Sustainable Development Goal 6**, which focuses on **water and sanitation**—a basic human right.

Globally, billions still lack access to safe water, and climate change is making things worse. In Malta, this challenge is very real. We have no rivers or lakes, and we rely heavily on **desalination** and **groundwater**, both of which require energy and careful management.

But we are not standing still. Malta is:

- Expanding **wastewater reuse** through the **New Water** programme
  - Restoring **rainwater catchment areas**
  - Raising awareness around water conservation
- Thanks to EU funds, several large-scale water projects are underway, including:

- A **€36 million underground tunnel** to improve water distribution
- A **new Reverse Osmosis plant in Gozo** (€11 million investment)
- The **Qattara reservoir** in Qrendi (€10 million), and
- A major **€150 million project** for a net-zero water utility

These efforts don't just support SDG 6—they also align with the European Green Deal's goals for **clean energy, resource efficiency, and resilience**.

### Malta's Progress and the EU's Role

Malta has made important progress:

- **100%** of the population has access to clean drinking water
- **88%** to proper sanitation
- **89%** of integrated water management targets are being implemented

However, there are gaps:

- Only **1% of wastewater is safely treated**
- **Just 7%** of monitored water bodies meet quality standards
- We use **78% of our renewable water resources**, putting us under high water stress

This is where the EU plays a crucial role—providing funding, technical support, and a collaborative platform for sharing best practices.

### Conclusion: From Policy to People

Let me close with this thought:

Whether it's the **Green Deal** or **SDG 6**, these are not just policy frameworks—they are **people-centred missions**.

They're about giving future generations **clean air, safe water, and a stable climate**. They're about resilience, equity, and dignity.

At SEM, we are proud to support this vision. We are proud to support you—our citizens, our businesses, our students and civil society.

Together, we can ensure that **Malta not only adapts—but leads**.

| HISTORY OF CHANGES |                  |                            |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| VERSION            | PUBLICATION DATE | CHANGE                     |
| 1.0                | 01.04.2022       | Initial version (new MFF). |
| 2.0                | 09.06.2026       | Final                      |
|                    |                  |                            |