



**RESPONSIBLE
GAMING
FOUNDATION®**

GAMING | GAMBLING | BETTING | IGAMING | SKIN GAMBLING

GUARD YOUR GAME!

**Annual Report
January-December 2022**

“

The Foundation believes that continuous efforts are needed to raise awareness and provide adequate support to individuals and families that are affected by the gaming and gambling addictions.

”

Mr. KAYNE SAID

(Communications Manager at the Responsible Gaming Foundation)



**Report for Period
January-December 2022**

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Message from the Minister for the Economy, EU Funds & Lands

Hon. SILVIO SCHEMBRI

Responsible gaming is a critical aspect of the gambling and gaming industry, as it helps mitigate the potential negative impacts of these activities on individuals and society at large. Putting safeguards in place to protect vulnerable individuals from the harmful consequences of excessive gambling is most vital.

As Malta continues to be a popular destination for tourists and international businesses, one industry that has

experienced significant growth in Malta over the past few decades is the gambling sector.

Despite international developments over this past year - the Russia-Ukraine war, and now the Gaza conflict, the industry in Malta still continues to grow at a steady pace and it has emerged in a stronger position still in terms of value added and employment.

But this positive aspect also puts a great responsibility on government to ensure that the right measures are in place to safeguard persons who engage in such activity.

So, while the gambling industry has brought many benefits to our country, such as increased job opportunities and tax revenue, it has also brought about a fair share of concerns. The government, alongside the Malta Gaming Authority (MGA) - the main regulatory body responsible for overseeing the industry - are always working to see that such concerns are seen to and measures implemented to narrow down any potential risks.

One of the main concerns tied to the gambling industry is money laundering. Due to the large amounts of money involved in gambling, it has unfortunately become an attractive target for criminals looking to launder their illicit funds.

In this regard, the MGA has implemented new regulations and procedures to improve its industry oversight in response to these concerns. Players must continue to be protected, and licensees must keep offering fair and secure gambling environments and have safeguards for players in place to gamble safely and responsibly while protecting minors and vulnerable persons.

The Government has introduced several new regulations in recent years. In 2018, the government introduced a new Gaming Act, which aimed to improve the industry's regulations and to help combat money laundering and other financial crimes. The act introduced new requirements for gambling companies, including but not limited to conducting regular risk assessments and implementing effective measures for prevention.

As with any gambling industry, if the activity is not practiced responsibly, like for instance establishing time limits and the amount of money spent, there is a risk that some individuals will develop a gambling addiction, which can lead to financial ruin and other negative consequences. This, in itself, helps prevent excessive losses and maintain control over their gambling expenditures.

While the MGA has implemented various measures to protect vulnerable individuals and prevent problem gambling, the Responsible Gaming Foundation continues to strengthen responsible gambling awareness through the media, support alternatives to excessive gambling and console gaming by means of its CSR Programme, enhance its educational element through important handshakes with stakeholders in the sector to nip any potential problems in the bud, and supports problem gamblers in their recovery efforts through their National Supportline 1777 and its online chat.

“

While I thank the Responsible Gaming Foundation for their excellent work in providing awareness and support in this sector, the government will continue to address any concerns and ensure that it is kept free from criminal activity while at the same time help in making sure that the vulnerable remain protected and, most of all, supported in the best possible way.

”

During the past year, the Foundation embarked on a national awareness campaign entitled TAKE ACTION: Be a Winner. Know your Limits. part-financed by the European Social Fund. Through this campaign, whereby well-known personalities participated, the Foundation upped its awareness efforts at a local level and improved its support services offered by professionally trained staff. This campaign made a huge impact locally, making the Foundation known among those seeking their support.

While I thank the Responsible Gaming Foundation for their excellent work in providing awareness and support in this sector, the government will continue to address any concerns and ensure that it is kept free from criminal activity while at the same time help in making sure that the vulnerable remain protected and, most of all, supported in the best possible way.

Foreword by the Non-Executive Chairman

Mr. NEVILLE MANGION



line and chatline are staffed by trained professionals available to assist 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

But the Foundation didn't stop there! In addition to its support line and chatline, the Foundation collaborated with FSWS's Sedqa Foundation to ensure additional valued support to those struggling with gambling addiction.

The RGF is also reaching students locally through Sedqa's prevention programs in schools. Our main aim is to raise awareness about responsible gambling and to help prevent problem gambling and problem gaming from developing in the first place.

One of the critical initiatives of the RGF is its self-exclusion program. This program allows individuals to voluntarily exclude themselves from all licensed gambling establishments in Malta for a specified period. A self-exclusion program is an essential tool for individuals struggling with gambling addiction. It can help them break the cycle of com-

pulsive gambling and seek the help they need to overcome their addiction. The Foundation is now also looking at a way for problem gamblers to exclude themselves from remote gambling sites as well.

The RGF also works closely with gambling operators in Malta to promote responsible gambling practices and ensure that they provide a safe and fair gambling environment for their customers. Recently, as part of the TAKE ACTION Project, the Foundation also provided training and education programs for gambling operators and believes that regular audits and inspections are necessary to comply with all relevant regulations and guidelines.

One of the critical challenges facing the RGF is the rapid growth of the gambling industry in Malta. With hundreds of online gambling companies operating in the

country, there is a risk that some individuals may develop gambling problems or become addicted to gambling. The RGF is working to address this issue by promoting more responsible gambling practices and providing better support and treatment services for individuals struggling with gambling addiction.

“There is always a risk that some individuals may develop gambling problems.”

Overall, the RGF is a vital organization that promotes responsible gambling and prevents problem gambling in Malta. Its support services and educational and awareness projects are helping to raise awareness about the risks associated with gambling and assist individuals experiencing gambling-related problems. The self-exclusion program is still an essential tool for individuals struggling with gambling addiction.

The RGF's work with gambling operators is helping to ensure that they provide a safe and fair gambling environment for their customers.

As the gambling industry in Malta continues to grow, the RGF will likely face new challenges in its efforts to promote responsible gambling and prevent problem gambling.

However, the Foundation's commitment to its mission, its partnerships with other organizations and stakeholders, and its focus on evidence-based approaches to problem gambling prevention and treatment make it a valuable resource for individuals and communities in Malta and beyond.

Introduction from the General Manager

Mr. KEVIN O'NEILL



rience, making it an alluring mode of entertainment. The proliferation of online gambling has led to a rapid increase in the number of people participating in gambling activities and the number of people experiencing gambling-related harm.

Understanding that gambling can be a fun and harmless activity, for some it quickly becomes an addiction leading to financial, social, and psychological problems.

As a result, there is an increasingly urgent need for responsible gambling practices to help protect vulnerable individuals from harm. The Responsible Gaming Foundation commits itself to continue promoting responsible gambling and safer gaming and further educating players on how to enjoy this legitimate pastime without suffering any deleterious consequences.

The Foundation's Take Action Awareness Campaign conducted during the second half of 2022 is a testament to exactly that.

It is my privilege to present the Responsible Gaming Foundation's Annual Report for last year.

I am proud to report that we have continued to make significant strides towards our goal of promoting safer gambling practices and raising further awareness of gambling harms.

At the Foundation, we understand the importance of providing a safe and secure environment for individuals who enjoy gambling. Our primary objective is to support individuals who may be at risk of developing gambling harm, and we have taken several measures to achieve this objective.

The gambling industry keeps seeing significant growth with new technology enabling easy access to various gambling activities, and a more immersive experience,

namely our Supportline 1777 and its technical capabilities, have consolidated this service further and remain our first port of call that could potentially be the first step towards recovery.

Indeed, for several individuals, it was the door leading to their rehabilitation, thanks to our valued partners at Sedqa Malta, who have wholeheartedly provided additional support to the more acute cases.

Also, from an educational perspective, we were able to reach students through Sedqa's prevention program Teen Outside the Box, covering schools around Malta and Gozo where we produced an impactful clip promoting the disciplined use of technology.

So my gratitude goes to all the Sedqa

Malta team and to the CEO of FSWS Mr Alfred Grixti.

We will continue to work closely with industry leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to cushion the negative impact caused by gambling.

“I am proud to report that we have continued to make significant strides towards our goal of promoting safer gambling practices and raising further awareness of gambling harms.”

We also remain dedicated to providing better support and resources to individuals struggling with problem gambling, and we are committed to working towards a future where gambling is conducted safely and responsibly.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff whose hard work and commitment have made our achievements possible.

Together, we shall continue to progress towards our goal of promoting responsible gambling practices and reducing the negative impact of problem gambling on individuals and communities with the continued support from stakeholders and partners.



Photo: YANICA SPITERI (RGF)

Board members as to December 2022

- MR. NEVILLE MANGION**
Non-Executive Chairman
- MR. PAUL BUGEJA**
Deputy Non-Executive Chairman
- MR. KEVIN O'NEILL**
General Manager / Board Administrator
- MRS. DORIANNE ATTARD**
Call Centre Manager / Board Secretary
- MRS. ANDREANA FRIGGIERI**
Board Member
- MRS. SILVANA MIFSUD**
Board Member
- MS. KELLY-ANN PELOW**
Board Member

The PURPOSE of the Foundation

- To continuously seek funding for the Foundation's causes;
- To administer and manage those funds in a responsible and transparent manner;
- To promote responsible gambling and gaming;
- To encourage the creation of systems that combat excessiveness;
- To encourage responsible consumption of gaming and gambling;
- To undergo further research into the gambling and gaming sectors;
- To support individuals with problem gambling and problem gaming issues; and
- To provide an alternative for excessive gambling and gaming practices.



What do we stand for?

“ The mission we pursue through the organisation is:
 To **create a wider awareness** of the extent, possible causes and consequences of problem gaming and problem gambling in Malta and Gozo with a view **to preventing it** and **to provide the necessary support** and advice to problem gamblers and their dependants in their recovery efforts.

”

One of the billboards in Żejtun,
part of the TAKE ACTION Awareness
Campaign launched in 2022

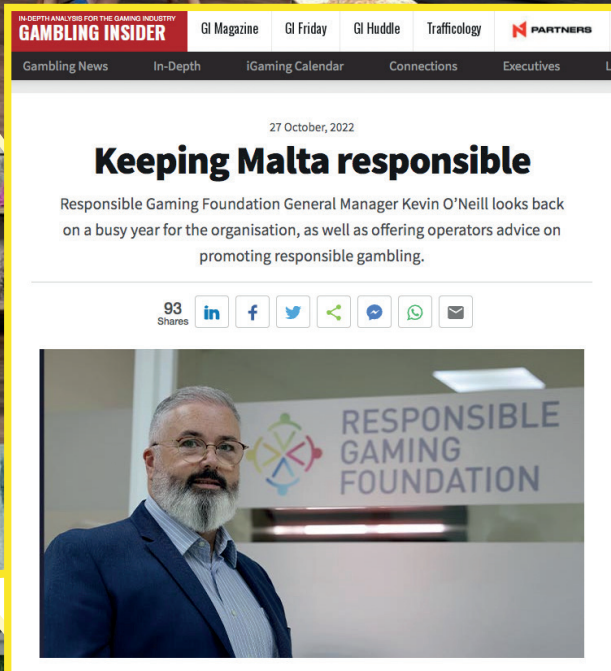
How do we do this?

WE CREATE AWARENESS by embarking on advertising campaigns which include all media platforms. In 2022 we embarked on a national campaign as part of the TAKE ACTION Project part-financed by the European Union. Our aim was to create more awareness on the Foundation per se, on gambling and gaming responsibilities, and on the support services we offer. We still took part in seminars and panels and advertised our services on news portals. We also supported this through our educational campaign which targetted children and parents on national television to make them aware of the different dangers that may be found in excessive console gaming.

WE PREVENT IT by supporting different organisations that have the aim to promote activities which are alternatives to excessive gambling and gaming through sponsorships and CSR Applications. From an educational perspective, we were also able to reach students through Sedqa's prevention program Teen Outside the Box, covering schools around Malta and Gozo where we produced an impactful clip promoting the disciplined use of technology. Also, thanks to our valued partners at Sedqa Malta, we have wholeheartedly provided additional support to the more acute cases that reach out via our supportline.

WE PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT by continuously strengthening the Responsible Gaming Foundation's anonymous Supportline 1777, which is the first national supportline that is dedicated exclusively to gambling. The Supportline is the bridge between the problem gambler's silence and help. The Responsible Gaming Foundation is in collaboration with different support entities which contribute to the treatment of the problem gamblers that come to us for help. In addition to the Supportline, we also have an anonymous chatline which runs on the same hours as the Supportline through our website www.rgf.org.mt. Also problem gamblers can come to the Foundation's offices and self-exclude themselves for a period of 6 months, 1 year, for an indefinite period or auto-renew option from casinos, gaming parlours and bingo halls all licensed with the Malta Gaming Authority.

Promotional Awareness



Outreach Advertising & the registration of the RGF Logo

In 2022, the Foundation finally reached its' objective of registering the logo with the Industrial Property Registrations Directorate under the Commerce Department. This was done to safeguard against copyright theft!

The Foundation also saw fit that its website www.rgf.org.mt was kept user-friendly and alluring to the eye. A constant update, vis-à-vis news material, content and documentation was provided and the website kept its FITA approval as regards to accessibility.

According to MGA's New Gaming Act, our website continued to be listed on iGaming websites and also on gambling TV/Radio spots as a reference to local responsible gambling support. Leaflets were distributed to gambling licensed localities and stickers were affixed to gambling machines in casinos and gaming parlours in respect to the same Gaming Act.

RGF's TV Spots were aired, together with live interviews on PBS and ONE daily programs. Separate agreements were also reached with F Living and NET TV. Pop-up banners and TV Spots were also aired on Melita's & GO's TSN Sports channels. Animated banners were also published on Gwida.mt. Impressions, reach and engagement was a good one! News features were aired on ONE News and interviews and articles were published on L-Orizzont, It-Torċa and The Malta Independent newspapers.

The RGF also attended various radio programs along the year, where invites were accepted to continue propagating our awareness projects in a 360 degree manner.

Finally, the Foundation's Facebook and Twitter profiles, together with its YouTube Channel, Instagram and LinkedIn were strengthened. Social media campaigns on our profiles are ongoing.



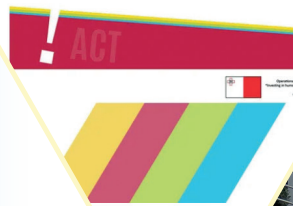
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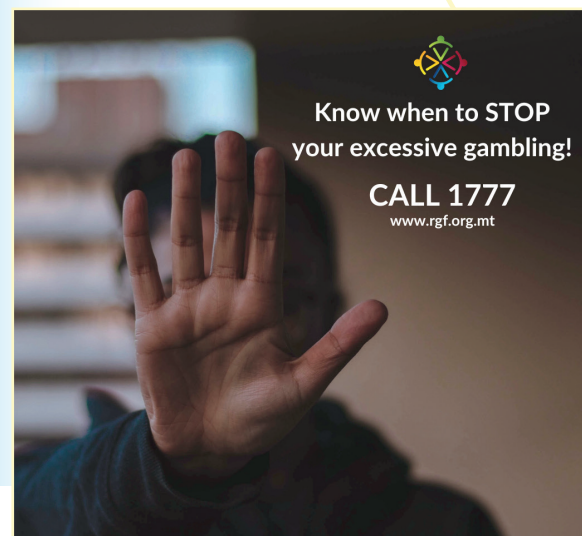
RESPONSIBLE
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FOUNDATION

TAKE A
RESPONSIBLE
ACTION



Know when to STOP.
RESPONSIBLE
GAMING
FOUNDATION

OUR WORK



RESPONSIBLE
GAMING
FOUNDATION

WWW.RGF.ORG.MT
BETTING EXCESSIVELY? CALL 1777
ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY
YouTube Twitter Instagram LinkedIn Facebook



WWW.RGF.ORG.MT



**CALL
1777**

THIS IS AN ANONYMOUS SERVICE AND
ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED
CONFIDENTIALLY



WWW.RGF.ORG.MT

HAS GAMBLING
BECOME A PROBLEM?

THIS IS AN ANONYMOUS SERVICE AND ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY



RESPONSIBLE
GAMING
FOUNDATION

HINT OF THE DAY

**Bet on yourself even
if no one else will**

Open up about your gambling problem.
Be strong and seek support.

CALL 1777

ALL INFORMATION WILL
BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY

WWW.RGF.ORG.MT



Conferences & discussions

The Sustainable Gambling Conference; and the ISAM Valletta World Congress



towards a more sustainable industry. The theme of 2022 was Safer gambling: an honest conversation.

Areas such as the ethical use of data, connecting to your communities, Responsible Gambling Research and much more were open for discussion on round tables. Speakers such as Johan Harri, New York Times best-selling author on topics such as addiction and online behaviour and Dr. Jonathan Parke, leading industry researcher as well as a number operators, suppliers, regulators and many more experts from inside and outside the industry contributed in the event.

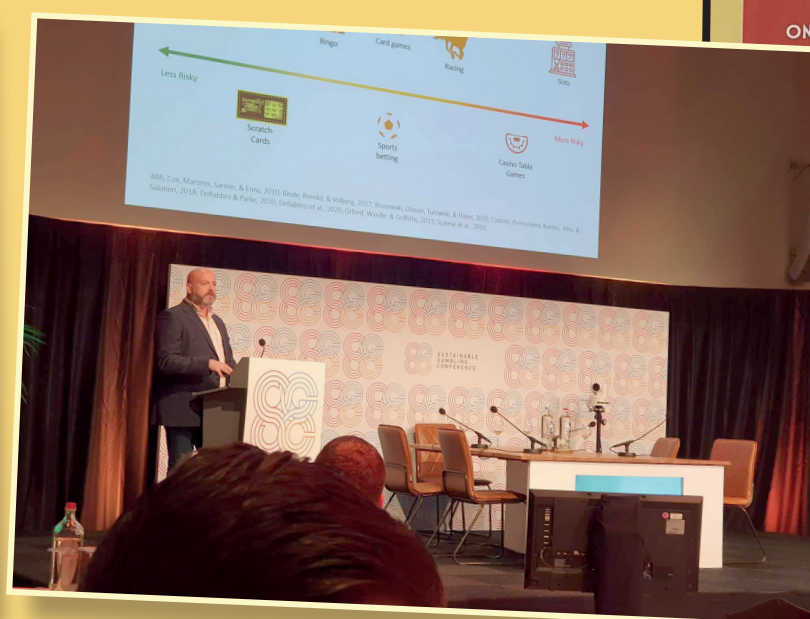
Two main events which last year contributed to the Foundation's knowledge about gambling trends and support initiatives were Kindred's Sustainable Gambling Conference organised in Amsterdam and the ISAM World Congress organised by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS) and University of Malta in Valletta.

In Amsterdam experts in the field were gathered under one roof from inside and outside of the gambling industry to share insights and ideas on key topics for driving

AMVALLETTA2022 Congress was organised by ISAM in collaboration with FSWS. The conference was held both physically and virtually at the Valletta Campus, University of Malta. ISAM is committed to the: Advancement of knowledge about addiction seen as a treatable disease; Recognition that physicians worldwide have a major role to play in its management; Enhancement of the credibility of the physician's role; Emphasis of the importance of educational activities; and the Establishment of consensus documents and practice guidelines.



Professor Sophia Achab's presentation at the ISAM on the Gaming Disorder in a pandemic reality



Criminality & Addictions: Discussion by the iDEAT Foundation for the Stigma National Campaign



Photos: iDEAT Foundation

Towards the end of 2022, Communications Manager Kayne Said attended a well organised discussion entitled Criminality & Addictions organised by the iDEAT Foundation which forms part of the Maltese Labour Party, as part of their Stigma Campaign.

During the discussion, spearheaded by the iDEAT Foundation's Chairperson Ms Elaine Degiorgio, the Foundation discussed the relationship between different types of addictions and criminality. Mr Kayne Said stressed the importance to recognise the positive aspects of the gambling activity, but at the same time we remain responsible enough not to fall into repercussions of compulsivity and most of all pathology.

Mr Said mentioned the different recent court cases where gambling got involved and stressed out that there needs to be a balance in the amount of gambling advertising vis-a-vis the responsible gambling awareness. Also present for the discussion were Mr Charles Mifsud, Chairperson of the RISE Foundation, where he discussed together with ex-inmates the importance that society supports re-integration to the fullest. Justice Minister Hon. Jonathan Attard stressed out the need for society to provide that second chance! Finally we discussed the need for an individual to be strong enough to admit that he is addicted and hence searches for support to stay away from repercussions.



The collaboration with Sedqa

In 2022, the Foundation signed an MOU with Sedqa under the watchful eye of FSWS for a shared educational awareness experience and also for assistance in the support services the Foundation offers in regards to excessive gambling and excessive gaming.

By means of such an agreement the Foundation will form part of Sedqa's education campaign conducted in local schools/colleges, better known as Teen Outside the Box. Throughout this campaign, the Foundation is making its voice heard in terms of responsible console gaming and in educational prevention against excessiveness amongst children, teens and youths in our schools and communities.

Also, the Foundation is collaborating with Sedqa in terms of problem gambling referrals for those persons who reach out through the Foundation's Supportline 1777 and would like to make use of the Addictions Community Team (ACT) within Sedqa. ACT Leaders will evaluate the case and allocate a member of their team to establish a care plan with the addict. Persons who reach out on 1777 will be given priority at the ACT.

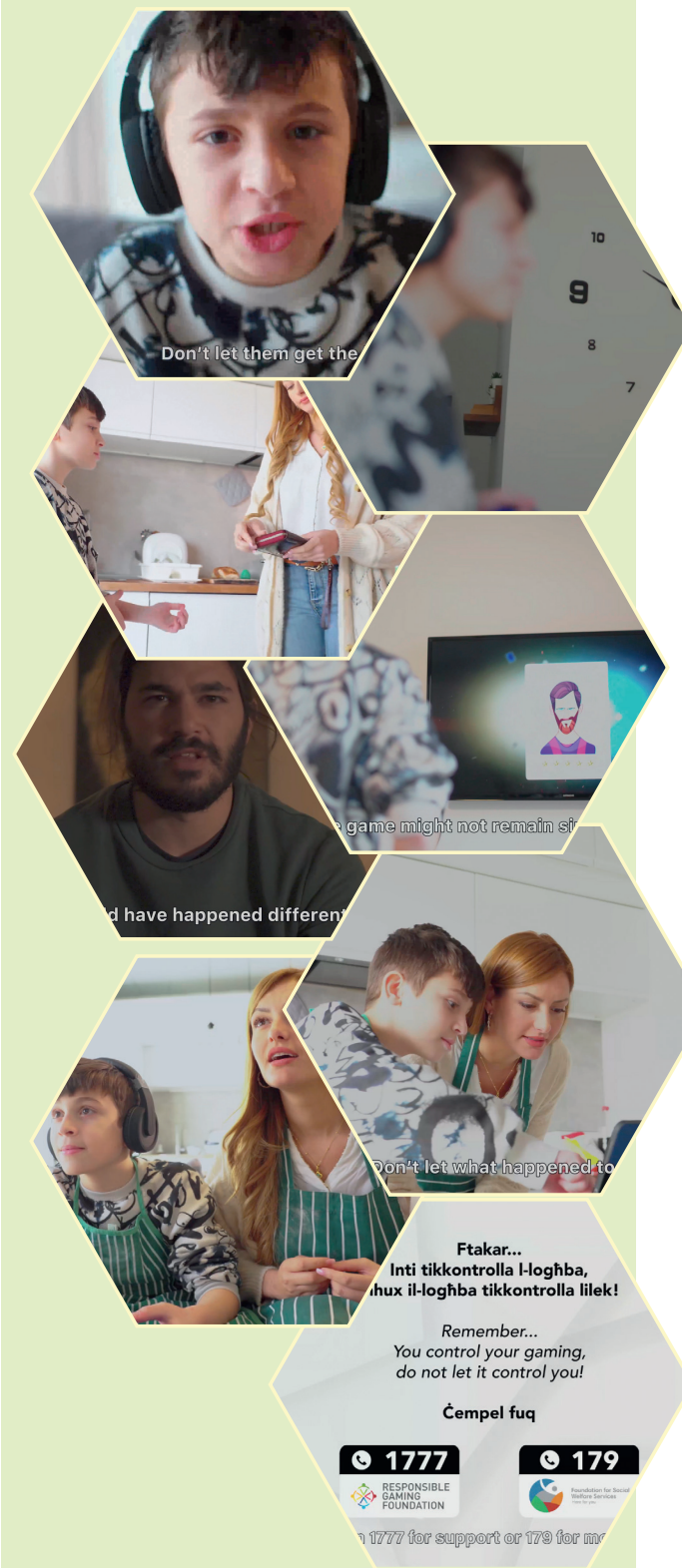


The MOU was signed by FSWS's CEO Mr Alfred Grixti and RGF's General Manager Mr Kevin O'Neill during a courtesy meeting (below) at RGF's offices in Birkirkara



The educational clip & subsequent TV Spots

The Foundation also collaborated with Sedqa in the production of visual material in the form of a clip and TV Spots for educational and promotional aims. Such material is also being used during the Teen Outside the Box Campaigns, together with the distribution of RGF's merchandise.



TEEN OUTSIDE THE BOX FORM 2 (YEAR 8) MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS 11-12 YEAR OLDS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2022

School/College	Number of Students
San Anton School, St Paul's Bay	106
Savio College, Dingli	48
St. Monica School B'kara	68
St. Patrick's Salesian School, Sliema	15
St. Paul's Missionary College, Rabat	47
St. Benedict College, Kirkop	236
St Theresa College, Ta' Paris, B'kara	176
National Sport School, Pembroke	46
Stella Maris College, Gzira	100
St. Thomas More - MVPA, Hamrun	45
Gozo College Secondary School	191
TOTAL	1078

NO POST-SECONDARY/TERTIARY/YOUTH GROUPS
INTERVENTIONS WERE RECORDED

Supportline, Chatline, Self-Exclusion & Statistics

CALL-CENTRE STATISTICS

TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS RECEIVED ON 1777 - 2021	
January	41
February	46
March	62
April	45
May	39
June	78
July	59
August	60
September	77
October	56
November	58
December	62
TOTAL	683

TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS RECEIVED ON 1777 - 2022	
January	93
February	86
March	60
April	115
May	82
June	73
July	76
August	77
September	66
October	77
November	42
December	64
TOTAL	911

Keep in mind that test calls, abandoned calls, missed calls and calls unrelated to gambling are included in the amount

Majority of calls happened btw 18:00-22:00
There was an increase of 228 calls over 2021 to the 1777

TOTAL NUMBER OF VALID CALLS RECEIVED ON 1777 - 2021		
Gamblers	124	36%
Relatives/Friends	37	14%
Complaints	4	1%
Information	14	49%
TOTAL	179	100%
Male	119	66%
Female	52	29%
Anonymous	8	5%
TOTAL	179	100%

TOTAL NUMBER OF VALID CALLS RECEIVED ON 1777 - 2022		
Gamblers	313	81%
Relatives/Friends	53	14%
Complaints	4	1%
Information	17	4%
TOTAL	387	100%
Male	324	84%
Female	63	16%
Anonymous	0	0%
TOTAL	387	100%

These are all calls that were related to excessive gambling and gaming

Maximum number of valid calls from 2015 to date
There was an increase of 208 valid calls over 2021

On the 28th September 2015 the national supportline was introduced. The Supportline 1777 is the first national supportline that is dedicated to dealing and providing support to problematic gamblers and gamers together with their relatives or close ones.

The call-centre is an integral part of our operations because it is the bridge between silence and help for all of the problematic gamblers and gamers in Malta as well as their relatives. The resources of the call-centre are strengthened with regular training, exercises and better equipment in order to maintain and improve their standard of professionalism when it comes to dealing with the sensitive calls that the Supportline receives. A person can also make use of the chatting service on www.rgf.org.mt.

SELF-EXCLUSION REQUESTS PROCESSED BY THE MGA

	Self-Barrings	2022		TOTAL	
12 Months	505			1424	
6 Months	772				
Indefinite	1				
Auto Renew	146				
	Self-Barrings	2021		TOTAL	
12 Months	582			1461	
6 Months	634				
Indefinite	0				
Auto Renew	245				
	Self-Barrings	2020		TOTAL	
12 Months	635			1613	
6 Months	760				
Indefinite	1				
Auto Renew	217				
	Self-Barrings	2019		TOTAL	
12 Months	776			1935	
6 Months	841				
Indefinite	2				
Auto Renew	316				
	Self-Barrings	2018		TOTAL	
12 Months	882			1742	
6 Months	851				
Indefinite	9				
	Self-Barrings	2017		TOTAL	
12 Months	692			1459	
6 Months	765				
Indefinite	2				
	Self-Barrings	2016		TOTAL	
12 Months	678			1355	
6 Months	672				
Indefinite	5				
	Self-Barrings	2015		TOTAL	
12 Months	577			1262	
6 Months	681				
Indefinite	4				

SELF-EXCLUSION REQUESTS AT THE RGF

	Self-Barrings	2022	TOTAL	
12 Months	2		13	
6 Months	2			
Indefinite	1			
Auto Renew	8			
	Self-Barrings	2021	TOTAL	
12 Months	2		13	
6 Months	0			
Indefinite	0			
Auto Renew	11			
	Self-Barrings	2020	TOTAL	
12 Months	2		8	
6 Months	0			
Indefinite	0			
Auto Renew	6			
	Self-Barrings	2019	TOTAL	
12 Months			20	
6 Months				
Indefinite				
Auto Renew				
	Self-Barrings	2018	TOTAL	
12 Months			5	
6 Months				
Indefinite				
	Self-Barrings	2017	TOTAL	
12 Months			2	
6 Months				
Indefinite				
	Self-Barrings	2016	TOTAL	
12 Months			5	
6 Months				
Indefinite				

A self-exclusion/barring form gives the opportunity to exclude oneself from all land based gaming parlours for a period of 6 months, 12 months or for an indefinite period. The auto-renew option automates the barring process so that players do not need to request another barring once the barring period has lapsed. This can however be interrupted at any point and once the effective barring period lapses, the barring is lifted accordingly.

CHATLINE STATISTICS

Year 2019		
Month	Total Number of Chats and Forms Interactions	
Jan-19	0	
Feb-19	0	
Mar-19	0	
Apr-19	0	
May-19	10	
Jun-19	17	
Jul-19	17	
Aug-19	17	
Sep-19	21	
Oct-19	16	
Nov-19	20	
Dec-19	18	
Total	136	

Year 2020		
Month	Total Number of Chats and Forms Interactions	
Jan-20	12	
Feb-20	11	
Mar-20	17	
Apr-20	20	
May-20	26	
Jun-20	21	
Jul-20	16	
Aug-20	26	
Sep-20	35	
Oct-20	28	
Nov-20	39	
Dec-20	44	
Total	295	

Year 2021		
Month	Total Number of Chats and Forms Interactions	
Jan-21	61	
Feb-21	51	
Mar-21	39	
Apr-21	42	
May-21	77	
Jun-21	53	
Jul-21	58	
Aug-21	81	
Sep-21	70	
Oct-21	49	
Nov-21	59	
Dec-21	69	
Total	709	

Year 2022		
Month	Total Number of Chats and Forms Interactions	
Jan-22	112	
Feb-22	59	
Mar-22	115	
Apr-22	70	
May-22	48	
Jun-22	65	
Jul-22	142	
Aug-22	59	
Sep-22	62	
Oct-22	83	
Nov-22	92	
Dec-22	179	
Total	1086	

Having a gambling problem may not always lead to gambling addiction if help is sought immediately. It is important that the gambler's close friends/relatives/family members also seek help even though the gambler may refuse to admit that she has a problem.

Why do I have to seek help if a close member of my family or friend is the one having the gambling problem?

Family members/relatives/friends close to the person having a gambling problem, may feel:

- Frustrated, lonely, hurt or confused about how best to cope with and to help the gambler or other most person involved in this social problem.
- Angry because of the unnecessary losses they may be suffering because of their loved one's problematic gambling.
- Worried about their future, regarding the gambler's behaviour and possible negative financial repercussions.

Gambling problems may also negatively affect the lives of a problematic gambler's significant others.

They too deserve to be supported in order to cope effectively with this adverse situation.

Phone 1777 to receive support and obtain further guidance

Address: 90/91, Second Floor, Paola Street, Birkirkara
Tel No: +35621499000/1
Helpline: 1777
Website: www.rgf.org.mt

Helpline 1777



Gambling should NEVER be considered a money-making activity to improve one's financial state. Conversely, gambling should be deemed a recreational activity.

Helpline 1777

A person is considered to have a gambling problem or addiction if s/he experiences any of these symptoms:



- Difficulty in controlling urges to gamble.
- Constant thoughts on healthier next gamble.
- Conflicts in higher relationships, including family, friends and in the workplace.
- Difficulty in finding fulfillment and experiencing joy in non-gambling activities.

Have you ever thought whether you have a gambling problem or not?

- Have you ever gambled with the hope of regaining your losses?
- Have you ever missed an important appointment or failed to attend work because you indulged in a gambling activity instead?
- Have you ever been nervous, irritable or worried when others draw your attention to your involvement in excessive gambling activities?
- Have you ever tried to stop gambling but found it difficult/overwhelming to do so alone?
- Have you ever lost about how much money you actually spend on gambling?
- Has gambling ever led you to borrow money to further finance your gambling activities?
- Have you ever engaged in gambling activities to distance yourself from other problems in your life?
- Have you ever experienced difficulty sleeping due to gambling urges?

If you answered "Yes" to most of the above questions, seek help and phone 1777 (Freephone) or access the chatting facility via www.rgf.org.mt

Not only are you gambling with money, but also playing with your life and the lives of your significant others

PHONE 1777 FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

The CSR Programme: Events for the Year 2022

The Foundation continued to support voluntary organisations that work in the sporting, cultural, musical and educational sectors in their bid to provide alternatives to problematic excessive gaming/gambling and in the same time keep our young ones away from addictions. The Foundation also supported individuals in their professional roles, passed philanthropic donations and also sponsored events.

Grants Donations Sponsorships



Qormi
Hockey
Club



Sigġiewi
Basketball
1975 Club



Soċjetà Filarmonika
Stella Maris, Sliema



Għaqda Mużikali
Marija Bambina
Banda Vittorja, Naxxar



SportMalta Awards



Domenic Aquilina



The CSR Programme: Amounts (2017-2022)

No	Application No	Organisation	Project	Amount
32	BCSRP/2017/032	FKNK (MOU)	Captive-Breeding and Release Programme	€2,000
33	BCSRP/2018/033	Siggiewi Football Youth Nursery	Family Sports Day	€3,530
34	BCSRP/2018/034	Kummissjoni Żgħażaġh Rabtin Pawlini	Aquatic Games "Loghob għal Kulhadd"	€3,500
35	CCSRP/2019/035	Kummissjoni Żgħażaġh Rabtin Pawlini	Aquatic Games "Loghob għal Kulhadd"	€3,500
36	CCSRP/2019/036	MCCFF (DONATION)	L-Istrina 2019 Donation	€70
37	CCSRP/2019/037	Ivan Grech (SPONSORSHIP)	Sponsorship of Concert	€2,360
COVID-19 (2020-2021)				
38	DCSRP/2020/038	Fondazzjoni għall-Patrimonju Kulturali tal-Arċidjoċesi ta' Malta (VO/1288)	Manikata Parish Hall Refurbishment	€4,938
39	DCSRP/2020/039	Naxxar Lions Football Club (VO/1485)	Mobile Aluminium Goal Posts - 2 Pairs (Delivery+Assembly)	€5,782
40	DCSRP/2020/040	FKNK - Mellieha (VO/306)	Clay Pigeon Shooting Organisation at Ahrax	€5,000
41	DCSRP/2020/041	Festa Santa Marija Dingli (SPONSORSHIP)	Half Page B/W Advert	€70
42	CCSRP/2021/042	FKNK (MOU)	Turtle Doves GPS Tracking Devices	€14,000
43	ECSRP/2021/043	Mtarfa Youth Football Nursery	Technical Equipment + Coaching Kits	€3,500
44	ECSRP/2021/044	Rabat Ajax Football Nursery	Technical Equipment	€5,000
45	ECSRP/2021/045	Hal Qormi Football Club + Nursery	Infrastructural Works + Football Kits	€5,000
46	ECSRP/2021/046	Żebbuġ Baden Powell Scouts Group	Kayaks	€1,200
47	ECSRP/2021/047	Siggiewi Football Youth Nursery	Family Sports Day + Technical Equipment	€5,000
48	ECSRP/2021/048	Mtarfa Baden Powell Scouts Group	Infrastructural Works	€1,206
49	ECSRP/2021/049	MCCFF (DONATION)	L-Istrina 2021 Donation	€1,500
50	FCSRP/2022/050	UOM - Faculty for Social Wellbeing (SPONSORSHIP)	Sponsorships of Dean's Award	€300
51	FCSRP/2022/051	Hal Qormi Hockey Club	Infrastructural Works	€4,720
52	FCSRP/2022/052	Hal Qormi Hockey Darts Team	Dart boards	€450
53	FCSRP/2022/053	Siggiewi Basketball 1975 Club	Technical Equipment + Infrastructure	€5,000
54	FCSRP/2022/054	Żebbuġ Rangers YFN	Technical Equipment + 5 a Side Bull Nose	€5,000
55	FCSRP/2022/055	Steven Muscat	European 8 Ball Pool Championship 2022 - Flights + Accomodation	€1,000
56	FCSRP/2022/056	Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina Banda Vittorja - Naxxar	School of Music Infrastrucutre + Laptops + Chairs	€2,953
57	FCSRP/2022/057	Soċjetà Filarmonika Stella Maris - Sliema	Update of the Band Percusiion: Musical Instruments Setup for learning purposes	€3,070
58	FCSRP/2022/058	Domenic Aquilina (SPONSORSHIP)	Book Launch (Publishing)	€1,000
59	FCSRP/2022/059	Għaqda Mużikali Sant'Andrija - Luqa	Maintenance + Equipment	€5,000
60	FCSRP/2022/060	Luqa YFN	VEO 2 Camera + 10 Playermaker Kits	€4,981
61	FCSRP/2022/061	Soċjetà Filarmonika L-Unjoni - Luqa	Musical Folders + Laptop 4 teaching + Foldable Chairs + Screen ...	€4,880
62	FCSRP/2022/062	Sport Malta Awards 2022 (SPONSORSHIP)	Sport Awards	€2,500
63	FCSRP/2022/063	Southern Pigeon Club - Luqa	Computer + Printer	€1,427
64	FCSRP/2022/064	Mġarr YFN	Technical Equipment	* €5,000
65	FCSRP/2022/065	Għaqda Mużikali Immakulata Kuncizzjoni - Hamrun	PA System	€2,111
66	FCSRP/2022/066	Soċjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija Żebbuġ - Gozo	Maintenance + Lighting Equipment	€4,600
67	FCSRP/2022/067	Nico Sciberras/Neville Bartolo	Tiratur (Shooting Cartridges/Skrataċ)	€500
68	FCSRP/2022/068	Soċjetà Mużikali - San Pawl il-Baħar	Musical Instruments	€4,996
69	FCSRP/2022/069	Dingli Swallows Football Club Youth Nursery	Technical Equipment	€5,000
70	FCSRP/2022/070	Soċjetà Filarmonika Sant'Antnin - Birkirkara	Musical Instruments	€5,000
71	FCSRP/2022/071	Malta Baseball and Softball Association (SPONSORSHIP)	50 Women's National Team Game Shirts	€700
72	FCSRP/2022/072	Dar il-Kaptan (DONATION)	Easter Donation	€500
73	FCSRP/2022/073	UOM Rowing Club	4 Coastal Rowing + Set-up of rowing academy	€5,000
74	FCSRP/2022/074	Soċjetà Santa Marija Banda Re Ġorġ V - Mqabba (SPONSORSHIP)	Village Feast	€1,000
75	FCSRP/2022/075	Brandon Terribile (SPONSORSHIP)	TONIGHT TV Program	€944
TOTAL (2022)				€77,632
TOTAL (2017-2022)				€144,788

* Cheque not collected

The TAKE ACTION Awareness Campaign

As part of the €1.1 million TAKE ACTION Project, partially funded by the EU, last year the Foundation took full responsibility of an awareness campaign targeted to the general public. The Foundation's aims were to promote responsibility in the gambling and gaming activities and also make people more aware of the support services the Foundation offers to problem gamblers and gamers.



TAKE ACTION

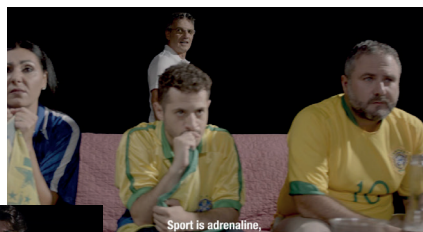
Be a winner.
Know your limits.

LOGO

MINISTERIAL VISIT



TV ADS



BILLBOARDS



MERCHANDISE



EDUCATIONAL CLIPS



SM POSTS



TV INTERVIEWS



BE IN CONTROL WHILST BETTING

SPORT ADS



BUS WRAPS



DIGITAL LEAFLET



POP-UP BANNERS



NATIONAL SURVEY REPORT
Results of the awareness campaign impact evaluation

TAKE ACTION

Be a winner.
Know your limits.

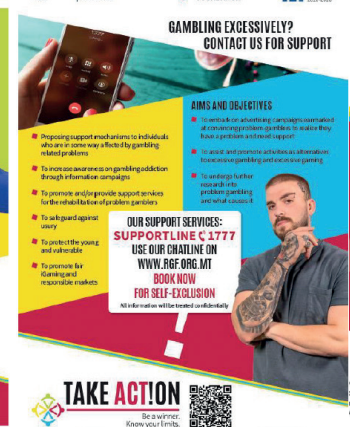


NEWSPAPER ADS

GENERAL LEAFLET



POSTERS



Future Plans

Revamping the education campaign

The Foundation is working on revamping its Education Campaign to further reach out more Primary and Secondary students, together with their parents and to make them more aware of gambling/gaming addictions and prevention.

Increasing the support structure

The Foundation needs to have a more holistic support structure for those problem gamblers/gamers and their loved ones. Hence a detailed study needs to be put forth as regarding the implementation of inhouse support services, etc...

Kickstart national research in terms of gambling & gaming

The Foundation needs to kickstart again the national research conducted on a bi-annual basis in terms of gambling & console gaming amongst the local population.

Strengthening the call centre

The Foundation shall better the Call Centre 1777 through the strengthening of its resources through further training to be of better service to those problem gamblers and gamers in need of support.

More coordination in terms of EU funded projects

The RGF shall strengthen its resources to search for, coordinate and implement more relatable projects that are funded by the EU. Only by means of such projects, can the Foundation evolve in its targets.

Entering into more agreements

The Foundation cannot perform in isolation in society. Hence, a coordinated effort between all social entities vis-à-vis problem gambling needs to be put in place through more handshakes and agreements.

Continuing with the promotion of the Foundation in the local sphere

The Foundation will continue make its voice heard and hence further promote its services together with more awareness on responsible gaming and gambling measures to the local sphere with better social media pages and a strengthened online profile, amongst others.

Photo by Pixabay
on Pexels.com

Financial Statements

January - December 2022

Responsible Gaming Foundation Report and financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

Report of the members of the board

The administrators of the Responsible Gaming Foundation (the "Foundation") present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Principal activities

The Foundation administers funds collected for the support of individuals who are affected by excessive gaming or gambling related problems.

Results

The surplus for the year amounted to € 13,043 (2021: deficit € 221,038). During the year, the Foundation's income increased whereas certain expenses in salaries of the Foundation have decreased, which resulted into the Foundation registering an income. The activities of the Foundation are to remain consistent in the foreseeable future.

Foundation administrators

The following have served as administrators of the Foundation:

Mr Neville Mangion - Chairperson
Mr Paul Bugeja - Deputy Chairperson (terminated during March 2023)
Ms Kelly-Ann Peplou (terminated during March 2023)
Ms Andreana Finggi
Ms Silvana Mifsud



Grant Thornton

Responsible Gaming Foundation Report and financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

Report of the members of the board (continued)

The members of the board are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements for each financial period in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. In preparing these financial statements the members of the board are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Account for assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting;
- Value separately the components of asset and liability items on a prudent basis; and
- Report comparative figures corresponding to those of the preceding accounting year.

The members of the board are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Foundation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Foundation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The members of the board are responsible to ensure that the Foundation establishes and maintains internal control to provide reasonable assurance with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Disclosure of information to the auditor

At the date of making this report, the members of the board confirm the following:

- As far as each member is aware, there is no relevant information needed by the independent auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report of which the independent auditor is unaware, and
- Each member has taken all steps that she/he ought to have taken as a board member in order to make herself/himself aware of any relevant information needed by the independent auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report and to establish that the independent auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

The auditor Grant Thornton has intimated its willingness to continue in office.

Approved by the members of the board and signed on its behalf on 25 September 2023:

Mr Neville Mangion
Chairperson

Mr Vasileos Kasiotakis
Deputy Chairperson

Registered address
90/91, Second Floor
Psaila Street
Birkirkara BKR 9073
Malta

3 October 2023

Responsible Gaming Foundation Report and financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

Independent auditor's report

To the board members of Responsible Gaming Foundation

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements for Responsible Gaming Foundation set out on pages 4 to 19 which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Foundation as at 31 December 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union (EU).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements of the Accountancy Profession (Code of Ethics for Warrant Holders) Directive issued in terms of the Accountancy Profession Act, Cap. 281 that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Malta. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other information

The administrators of the Foundation are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Report of the members of the board shown on pages 2 and 3 which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Responsible Gaming Foundation Report and financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

Detailed income statement

	2022 €	2021 €
Income		
Fixed contribution from MGA	300,000	300,000
Contribution from MGA based on the Gaming Devices Regulations	141,417	110,201
Contribution from Maltese Lotteries Limited	50,000	50,000
EU project fund	48,214	-
	539,631	460,201
Administrative expenses	(647,939)	(690,475)
Finance costs		
Bank charges	(591)	(595)
Lease interest	(2,561)	(3,589)
	(3,152)	(4,184)
Other operating income		
Salaries outsourced	124,503	13,420
	13,043	(221,038)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		

Responsible Gaming Foundation Report and financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

Based on the work we have performed, in our opinion, the information given in the report of the administrators of the Foundation for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition, in light of the knowledge and understanding of the Foundation and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we are required to report if we have identified material misstatements in the report of the administrators of the Foundation and other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of those charged with governance for the financial statements

The administrators of the Foundation are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU and for such internal control as the administrators of the Foundation determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the administrators of the Foundation are responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the administrators of the Foundation or the Government of Malta either intend to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The administrators of the Foundation are responsible for overseeing the Foundation's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Responsible Gaming Foundation Report and financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Mark Bugeja.

Mark Bugeja (Partner) for and on behalf of

GRANT THORNTON
Certified Public Accountants

Fort Business Centre, Level 2
Triq L-Intornjatur, Zone 1
Central Business District
Birkirkara CBD 1050
Malta

3 October 2023

* These are extracts from
the full financial statements



“

Ensuring the safety of gamblers is a shared responsibility that involves the effort of gambling operators, government, regulatory bodies and the players themselves. By working together, we can protect the whole eco-system as well as ensure the sustainability of the whole sector.

”

Mr. Kevin O'Neill
(General Manager at the
Responsible Gaming Foundation)

Left Photo by Pavel Danilyuk on Pexels.com
Top Right Photo by Vanderlei Longo on Pexels .com
Back Page Photo by Raka Miftah on Pexels.com



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