

# The National Literacy Agency

Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation

## Annual Report 2022 - Highlights



# Promoting Literacy Skills and Practices



## Inrawmu t-trabi jaqraw/ Teach your baby to read

Seminars for expectant parents and parents/caregivers of new-born babies on the importance of reading aloud to babies.

56 online sessions  
303 families  
72 free literacy packs



## Well Baby Clinic information sessions

Outreach initiative to encourage parents/caregivers to attend storytelling sessions and to read aloud to their babies at home

2,494 parents / caregivers reached



## Ġenituri l-Ewwel Għalliema/ Parents the First Teachers

A course of 5 sessions offering practical tips to parents/caregivers in helping their children (1 to 3 years) develop linguistic and communication skills.

3 courses  
71 parent participants



## Aqra Miegħi/Read with Me

An early literacy programme intended for children aged between 0 and 3 years and their parents/caregivers. Each session features the sharing of storybooks, the singing of nursery rhymes and other fun activities for this age group.

48 centres, 1336 sessions, reaching 1500 children



## **Seher l-Istejjer / The Magic of Stories**

A bilingual literacy programme to promote a love of books among children aged 4 to 7 years through the involvement of their parents/caregivers or classroom educators.

54 primary schools  
7 local communities  
ca 10,000 children



## **AI Puppets for Literacy Education**

A pilot project undertaken with the Centre for Literacy (UoM) and the Malta Digital Innovation Agency to develop and promote AI in education projects with children (8- to 10-year-olds), educators and parents.

3 primary schools  
7 classes  
110 children





## Skejjel Rakkontaturi/ Storytelling Schools

The Storytelling Schools methodology provides children with the necessary storytelling skills to help build confidence and fluency in spoken language, and to raise the standards of reading and writing.

11 primary schools  
317 sessions

## Ghidli Storja/Tell Me a Story

Through the telling of folktales and legends in Maltese or English and the activities based on the stories, Y5 students are supported to develop their oracy skills, i.e., speaking and listening, and listening comprehension, as well as the ability to create and narrate stories.

4 primary schools  
64 Year 5 students  
14 Year 5 educators





## L-Ambaxxaturi tal-Qari/ Reading Ambassadors

A literacy initiative in schools to promote a positive attitude towards reading through organised events involving local personalities including footballers, singers, actors, presenters, broadcasters, and journalists.

13 personalities  
31 activities  
over 2,000 children

## Bil-Qari u l-Kitba Niskorja/ Footballers' Read and Write Programme

A football and literacy programme that offers upper-primary and middle school students the opportunity to participate in reading and writing activities related to football.

Cycle 8  
9 schools  
62 children

Cycle 9  
10 schools  
85 children



## FRWP Skills Challenge

A set of football related skills challenges with book gifts for participants and winners.

80 children

## Sports and Literacy Activities

Fun physical activities that seek to boost children's literacy, coordination, and communication skills

11 primary schools  
1,113 children



## Naqra Teatru / Literacy and Drama Programme

A pilot programme aiming to boost pupils' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through engaging language and drama activities.

10 sessions per class  
19 children - English pilot programme  
21 children - Maltese pilot programme

## Symbol Literacy



A project in collaboration with Professor A.M. Gellel from the University of Malta, grounded in socio-cultural theory and meant to help children develop their observation, thinking and creative skills.

Funding of the publication *St Paul Conquering the Moors – Teaching Manual*

Hosting of in-person training session on symbol literacy

Provision of costumes for the celebration of St Nicholas day

## Raddiena Kliem/Spell It Out

An activity to encourage and support students to spell better in Maltese.

Online version:

34 schools

161 sessions

2,293 children

Face-to-face version:

16 schools

69 sessions

1,029 children



## Language and Literacy for Pleasure sessions

Interactive sessions during school hours aiming to improve pupils' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

15 primary schools

474 sessions

over 2,500 children





## **Titkellem ruhna/ Soul Speak**

Organised in collaboration with Spiritual Development in Schools, help children develop further their writing skills, in English and Maltese, by making use of reflection and the writing process.

4 sessions

7 children



## **Xalati ta' Kitba/ Family Writing Activities**

Family writing activities in historical, cultural, or rural places that present writing as a positive experience and link it to everyday activities. The activities organised in 2022 were held online.

6 activities

94 children

84 parents/caregivers





## Promoturi tal-Qari/ Reading Champions

The Reading Champions campaign rewards proficient readers in Maltese and English. It awards Y7 and Y8 students who improve their reading skills or promote reading and writing among their peers.

33 participating schools  
99 reading champions



## Brillantini tal-Qari/ Reading Stars

This initiative rewards outstanding students of all ages who love reading and who read in public spaces, such as in public gardens, waiting rooms, playgrounds, and while waiting for the school transport.

64 reading stars



## European Day of Languages

A language competition in which children and young adults were invited to take part in a competition: What do you dare to do in a foreign language? by creating a short video clip that demonstrates their skills in a foreign language.

185 participants  
8 winners  
16 runners-up



## World Book Day

The National Literacy Agency organises various competitions on the occasion of World Book Day:

K1 & K2 Storytelling session

Y1 & Y2 Decorate the classroom door according to a story theme

Y3 to Y6 Create a book character from a wooden spoon

Y7 & Y8 Create a book cover

Y9 & Y11 Create a scene from a book in a jar

219 participating schools

2,069 entries



## Book Champion Schools

Schools are invited to submit a report on the organised activities to promote reading and literacy and to celebrate World Book Day.

59 primary schools

25 middle/secondary schools



# Qaritona Nazzjonali/National Readathon



Organised by the National Literacy Agency and the Malta Trust Foundation, with the support of the Malta Public Transport, the National Readathon seeks to foster a love of reading in children with different abilities and empower and encourage them to reach their potential. Funds for this project are raised by school children as well as the corporate partners of the Malta Trust Foundation in aid of the purchase of tailor-made, augmentative communication devices to assist the education of children who are non-verbal and on the autism spectrum and assistive devices for children with visual impairments to help them to read and follow the educational curriculum.

15 participating schools

774 participating students

ca €11,500 collected for the Malta Trust Foundation

## **Aqra fis-Sajf / Summer Reading Campaign**



**A campaign organised to sustain the abilities and skills pupils acquire throughout the school year.**

**In collaboration with:**

**6 Catch-Up Schools  
41 SkolaSajf FES centres  
17 School Libraries**

**Achievements:**

**2,604 reading sessions  
2 FRWP (summer edition) groups  
1,660 school library patrons  
1,891 books borrowed**



# Supporting children with literacy difficulties

## Reading Recovery

Reading Recovery (RR) is an accredited school-based literacy programme in English for the lowest achieving children aged five or six, that enables them to reach age-expected levels within 20 weeks. It involves a series of daily one-to-one 30-minute lessons with a specially trained teacher.



The programme is different for every child, starting from what the child knows and what s/he needs to learn next. The focus of each RR lesson is to comprehend messages in reading, construct messages in writing, and learn how to attend to detail without losing focus on meaning.

50 schools  
300 children

From July to September 2022, 64 RR learners requested and benefitted from individual online literacy support in English provided by Reading Recovery teachers.

## Nwar Family Literacy Programme

Nwar is an after-school, family literacy programme for primary school pupils who have not acquired the required basic skills level. Dedicated literacy tutors who have followed a professional development course in literacy, provide systematic literacy intervention to children with literacy difficulties, as well as encourage, upskill and motivate parents/guardians to support their children to become confident readers and writers.



10 Nwar centres  
322 children

Nwar also provided online support in summer to 188 children.

## Klabb Naħla Literacy Programme



Klabb Naħla is an after-school literacy intervention programme for children with literacy needs identified by their respective schools. The additional literacy support consolidates reading and writing skills through a balanced literacy and hands-on multi-sensory approach. Sessions are delivered twice or three times weekly by educators who work within the same school.

Jan - June (online) : 275 children from 30 schools

Oct - December (face-to-face): 438 children from 25 schools

Klabb Naħla also provided online support during summer to 208 children.

## Hlewwet il-Qari / Read Aloud Programme

The Hlewwet il-Qari/Read Aloud Programme is offered to students identified by the National Literacy Agency (NLA) as most likely to benefit from it. The programme consists of three weekly interactive one-to-one online read aloud sessions delivered, in either Maltese or English, by trained reading tutors

Jan - June : 62 children  
Oct - December : 47 children



## Naqraw fis-Sajf/Summer Read Aloud Programme



Three weekly online reading sessions in English or/and Maltese over a period of seven weeks from July to September 2022, delivered by post-secondary and tertiary education students who applied to do their summer work experience with the Agency.

74 children

## Ir-Rimonta

A Maltese literacy intervention pilot programme designed for middle school students who are struggling to read and write. In 2022 the pilot programme continued in St Ġorġ Preca College Blata l-Bajda Middle School.

## Bil-Hila Tagħkom

Bil-Hila Tagħkom fosters the creation by educators of innovative resources to promote Maltese among children, adolescents, and students with learning difficulties. The main purpose of this scheme is to enrich the classroom environment with books, to promote a love for reading amongst students.

- 7 big books
- 30 reading books
- 1 other resource (flashcards)



## Bis-Sehem Tagħkom

A scheme whereby local publishers are invited to submit original teaching and learning material for publication in Maltese through an expression of interest. Selected projects are funded up to €2,500 by the National Literacy Agency. An agreement outlining terms and conditions is established between the Agency and the publishers.

- 4 big books
- 17 reading books
- 51 cartoons and video clips
- 2 educational games and other resources





# Provision of Access to and Distribution of Literacy Resources

## Literacy Resource Centres

The Agency manages two Literacy Resource Centres, one in Malta and one in Gozo. These Centres cater for all education professionals who wish to use the books and resources. Resources in both Centres were selected on the recommendations of the heads of department literacy, literacy support teachers, class teachers, LSEs, and complementary teachers.



Ġmiel il-Qari LRC (Malta) - 19,249 books and resources, 239 patrons  
Doris Vella LRC (Gozo) - 5,695 books and resources, 43 patrons

## Home Libraries

The National Literacy Agency, in collaboration with the National School Support Services and the Foundation for Social Welfare Services, distributed books to children from vulnerable families as part of the Home Libraries programme.



March/April 2022  
4,895 books  
1,354 other resources  
993 children up to 6 years old

July 2022  
3,112 books  
436 other resources  
1331 children 6 to 16 years old



## Aqra d-Dar/Read at Home

The 'Aqra d-Dar/Read at Home' scheme provides students aged 3 to 16 with attractive and diverse books they can read in the comfort of their homes. Through the 'Read at Home' scheme, all primary, middle, and secondary students can borrow up to six books, three in Maltese and three in English to be chosen from age-appropriate catalogues online. Books are delivered to the doorstep free of charge.



1,017 children  
9,120 books

## L-Għodda f'Idejk

L-Għodda f'Idejk' scheme distributes literacy resources, mainly in Maltese, mostly to kindergarten and primary classrooms, and to complementary education teachers. These resources include big books, reading books, posters, and flashcards. Most of the resources are sourced through the 'Bil-Ħila Tagħkom' and the 'Bis-Sehem Tagħkom' and are distributed free of charge.



24,632 free literacy resources

Furthermore, through L-Għodda f'Idejk scheme, the National Literacy Agency assists schools that wish to purchase graded readers or eBooks for the promotion of guided reading and/or shared and/or independent reading, storytelling, and guided and/or independent writing. Through this scheme, schools pay only half of the costs involved, with the other half being paid by the Agency.

39 schools

5,334 books and other resources

Towards the end of 2022, in the case of schools which commit to implement guided reading, the Agency started paying the full cost of the graded readers bought for that purpose.

## **Aqra Kemm Tiflah/Enhancing Classroom Libraries programme (Primary Schools)**

Through this programme, the National Literacy Agency, in collaboration with state primary schools, enhances classroom libraries enabling children to interact directly with books, demonstrate positive attitudes towards reading, spend more time reading and exhibit higher levels of reading achievement.



112 new Kindergarten classes – 6,997 books and 206 hand puppets

156 additional Kinder and Primary classes – 18,281 books and 30 hand puppets

13 classes topped up with 476 books (lower bands)

27 Catch-Up Schools classes supported with 432 books

## **Ismaghni Naqra/Talking Books Project**

The Talking Books Project is a joint initiative between the National Literacy Agency and Malta Libraries. The project aims to make the Aqra Kemm Tiflah books within each class library available to all children, including children with visual impairment.

22 new recordings

## **eBooks Joint Project with Malta Libraries**

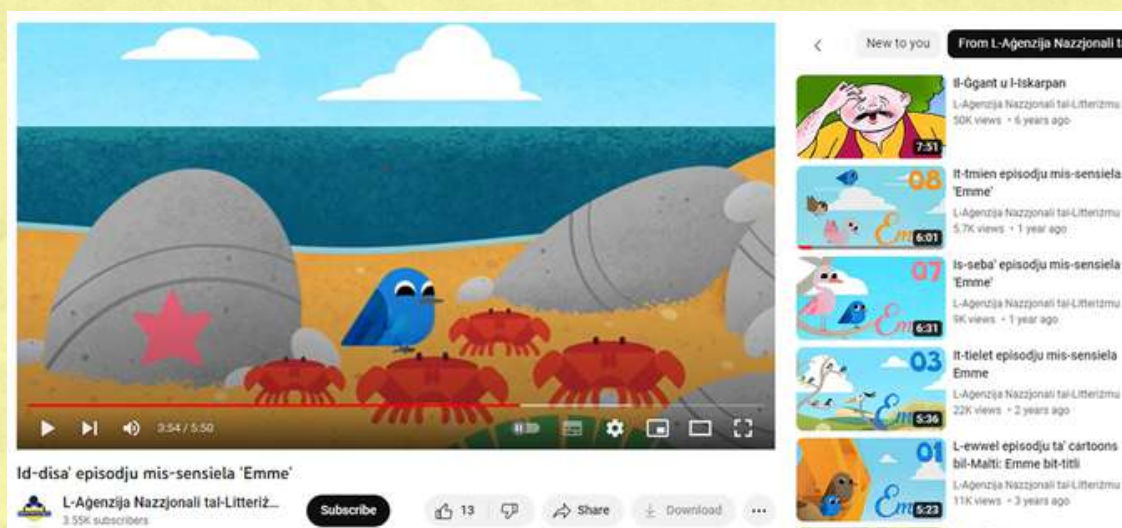
Another joint project between the Agency and Malta Libraries. These eBooks can be accessed free of charge on digital reading platforms such as tablets, mobile phones, and personal computers.

317 new eBooks.

Total of eBooks made available during the past five years – 6,120.

## Dissemination of audio-visual resources through the Agency's YouTube channel

The National Literacy Agency disseminates the audio-visual resources produced by its staff and those the production of which it supports, through its YouTube channel. These resources include recorded reading and storytelling sessions, short cartoons in Maltese, and television programmes produced with the participation of the Agency. In 2022 alone, the total number of audio-visual resources uploaded on YouTube was 282 and together these attracted 22,121 views.



## Hi-Lo Books, Graphic Novels, and Dyslexia-Friendly Books and Resources

In the first quarter of 2022, the Agency distributed 3334 dyslexia-friendly books, graphic novels, and high interest/low readability (hi-lo) to all state middle and secondary school libraries and public libraries.

## Libraries in the Community

In 2022, the National Literacy Agency, through LISU, donated 550 books for Open Libraries in ten local councils. These libraries aim to offer an opportunity to read a book while enjoying the outdoors.



## The Literacy and Information Support Unit (LISU)

Within the Agency, the Literacy and Information Support Unit offers support to all school libraries in Malta and Gozo. It supports schools in both the technical and curricular aspects of libraries.

26 middle, secondary, and post-secondary schools  
68 primary schools

32,205 books processed

## The Language Policy in Education Unit

The Language Policy in Education Unit works in collaboration with the Language Policy in Education Committee to draw up language in education policies for the early, junior, and secondary years. It also organises seminars for educators and parents/guardians on the use of languages with children and adolescents, creates resources and materials to promote bilingualism in educational settings, and conducts research in schools on language use and ways in which teachers can enhance children's bilingual development.

*Let us keep working together towards the fulfilment of  
our vision ...*

**To enrich the lives of people and communities  
by strengthening literacy skills  
and thus help reduce poverty,  
promote social inclusion,  
and foster personal well-being.**