

# **Press Release**

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### PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTER WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

## Since 2019, 80 projects by NGOs and local councils have been selected for EU funding with the assistance of SEM

The Għaxaq Boċċi Club has acquired European funds from the LEADER programme for two projects in the club with the help of Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM).

During a visit at the club in the presence of club officials, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister Carmelo Abela noted how the club invested in a pergola to be able to organise activities throughout the year, irrespective of weather conditions.

In addition, the club also obtained funds to invest in equipment that provides a better experience to members. European funds are being used to purchase equipment for the committee's office and members' meetings, as well as other technological equipment that further strengthens the organisation's work. These continue to make it possible to keep alive the tradition of the Maltese boċċi game.

During his visit, Minister Abela said that EU funds greatly help small entities such as this club to carry out these community-friendly and supportive projects. He encouraged other organisations and clubs to apply for EU funds too to implement their projects. He explained that since 2019, NGOs and local councils have submitted over 80 projects that were selected for funding under this programme with the assistance of SEM.

He recalled how nowadays SEM is also offering assistance not only during the application but also during the implementation, in what he characterised as a form of holistic assistance which really serves the needs of these organisations.

Club president Carmelo Desira explained that this investment makes it possible for the club to diversify annual activities to promote traditional sports, especially among the younger generation.

#### **Attachments: photos**

Page: 1 of 1