

To the Members

Treasurer's report for the year ended 31 December 2022

It is my pleasure to present my first report on the finances of Din l-Art Helwa and to report to you on the income and expenditure incurred in both the running of DLH and in the management of the properties entrusted to us.

It has been to a degree a year of revival for society in general and for NGOs like us. I feel that inspite of the lingering effects of the COVID 19 pandemic and regardless of the war in Ukraine which has shocked us and resurrected the horrors of past wars, people in general have done their utmost for life to return to normal. And this is reflected in the activities and results presented below.

The Executive President and Secretary General will give a detailed account of the work undertaken by Din l-Art Helwa volunteers and the council and I will restrict my references to these only in so far as it reflects the financing of this work and activities.

Income

Starting with our membership base, we have seen constant support by our corporate and individual members. We received a total of Eur69,559 in membership fees of which more 50% came from our corporate sponsors.

The council decided to increase the membership fees for individuals for the past year. The fees had been static for many years and while in no way wishing to outprice our organisation and increase the burden of membership we did feel that the increase was justified considering the way our operating costs are increasing annually.

I am happy to report that most of our members acknowledged this increase and to my knowledge there were no subscriptions that were lost directly as a result of this increase.

Expenditure

The costs of running Din l-Art Helwa continue to increase. We today employ one full time administrator who does an outstanding job. Here I will call out Rosanne Zerafa who goes to such lengths to further DLH interests. Along with Rosanne we have a further 4 people who help out in different roles. Our total payroll cost last year was in excess of Eur34,857. We incurred a further Eur42,000 in running the office and in general administrative and maintenance costs.

If one were to restrict this analysis simply to allocating the income from membership against the expenditure incurred DLH would have incurred a small loss of Eur7,000.

Thankfully DLH has other sources of income.

The Council members organised some events, among them a concert in December which was a success that raised over Eur6,000.

Of note were the donations received which exceeding Eur25,094. These activities and support went a long way to fund our operational expenditure needs.

Receivables from managing properties

DLH had total receivables from managing properties of Eur305,000. These funds were derived from a number of sources but the key receivables were from entrance fees, sponsorships and donations.

Receipts	Eur
Entrance fees	132,831
Sponsorships and donations	257,525
Other	23,163

We were successful in utilising Eur107,538 from various sources including EU/GAL/Good Causes/Geothermal projects and local businesses who support us.

In reality though we applied a total of Eur281,979 in Capital Expenditure to renovate the properties and for maintenance of a capital nature.

If we look at our key properties that generated these funds, we can understand better how these funds were generated.

Our Lady of Victory church

Receipts	Eur
Events	2,159
Donations	26,290
Sales	2,863
Total	31,312

The Church is a landmark in Valletta and attracts many visitors each year. In fact, during 2022 we had no less than 21,547 people who visited the church. An impressive number in its own right but still lower than 2018 when no less than 25,955 people visited the church.

The costs to maintain the church amounted to Eur15,720 and in addition a further Eur17,000 were spent on restoration works.

St Agatha Tower

Receipts	Eur
Entrance fees	70,181
Sponsorships	1,056
Donations	3,118
Sales	3,832
Total	78,188

St Agatha Tower remains DLH most visited site. A total of 31,027 people visited the site last year more than double the previous year and just 13% less than 2018.

Thanks to the very dedicated team of volunteers who run the tower the operating costs during the year were just Eur8,776. A heartfelt thanks to James Evans and all the team there.

Our biggest investments during the year however were in restoration projects. We focused on three main sites though work to obtain permits and acquire other properties was ongoing.

The geothermal project at the Garden of Rest continued with a total of Eur95,107 spent during the year. Likewise the team led by Albert Attard continued the sterling work on the White Tower. The sum of Eur45,482 was spent improving the property.

The Delimara Lighthouse is used for short stays. In 2021 we realised that the property is experiencing a significant problem of rising damp. This may be partly due to the fact that the facade of the building is in need of attention. We spent eur13,570 in doing some works on the property but much still needs to be done to restore the exterior of the lighthouse and resolve the damp problem. We have recently secured the funding and permits for these works.

Protecting our Heritage

One area where Din l-Art Helwa was very active during 2022 was that of being vigilant and where necessary taking action against planning abuse in our Islands. It is sad to say that it is NGOs such as ours that have to speak out and take action against those entrusted with regulating and protecting our environment where they fall short of their legal responsibilities. We have appealed a number of sanctioned planning applications in our courts of law with a view to keep planning abuse in check. We were successful in a number of appeals that we filed thanks once again to the dedicated team that monitor all planning applications and advise on those where there are blatant breaches of our planning laws. Din L-Art Helwa employs a small team of professionals as part of our Environmental Protection team. In addition to the salary costs of these people, a major part of our expenditure in this area are legal costs. We firmly believe that though the outcome of this work is often intangible unlike the work we do on restoration, the overall benefit to our islands is enormous.

Concluding comments

Although Din l-Art Helwa ended the year with a net surplus of Eur53,122, our funding remains dependent primarily on the benefactors and sponsors who help us carry out our projects.

Our council and volunteers put in a total of 14,784 hours to look after the properties we are entrusted with. Had one to value such work it would certainly be a considerable sum.

We have during the year continued our endeavours to secure funding for restoring existing properties that we are entrusted with. We continue to plead with Government to entrust us with the guardianship of a number of other sites which are falling into neglect.

Din l-Art Helwa has over many years become an institution in our islands. Thanks to the commitment and determination of the many people who have contributed time, thought and energy to achieving our goals that are continually evolving. We continue to inspire confidence in our many sponsors without whose invaluable support our ability to achieve would be limited.

Michael Warrington
Honorary Treasurer

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2022	2021
Income	508,172	322,915
Direct Costs	(378,627)	(244,887)
Gross Profit	129,545	78,028
Other Income	-	18,824
	(76,430)	(74,560)
Operating Profit	53,115	22,292
Investment Income	7	7
Profit for the year	53,122	22,299

Statement of Financial Position

	2022	2021
Non current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	24,104	26,359
Current Assets		
Inventory	22,989	23,391
Trade and other receivables	25,624	30,322
Cash and bank balances	377,545	422,504
	426,158	476,217
Total assets	450,262	502,576
	=====	=====
Equity and Liabilities		
Retained earnings	337,447	284,325
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	112,815	218,251
Total equity and liabilities	450,262	502,576
	=====	=====

Din I-Art Helwa Financial Reporting Framework

The Executive Committee has resolved to prepare the Association's financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU.

Our auditors VCA Certified Public Accountants have intimated their willingness to continue in office. A proposal to re-appoint VCA Certified Public Accountants as auditors of Din I-Art Helwa will be put to the General Meeting.

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on its behalf on the 15th February 2023 by Alex Torpiano Executive President and Michael Warrington Honorary Treasurer.

Din I-Art Helwa Independent Auditors' Report to the Members

We have audited the financial Statements of Din I-Art Helwa ('the Association'), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31st December 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the balance sheet of the Association as at 31st December 2022, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards adopted by the EU and have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Association's Statute.

Michael Curmi (Partner)

For an on behalf of VCA, Certified Public Accountants

15th February 2023