

Oggi, sabato 3 settembre dell'anno 2005,
Anno Europeo della cittadinanza democratica
attraverso l'educazione,

**i Consigli Comunali
di Colle Umberto - Provincia di Treviso - Italia
di San Lawrenz - Gozo - Malta
e i rispettivi Consigli delle Associazioni
per il Gemellaggio**



Illum, is-Sibt 3 ta' Settembru tas-sena 2005,
s-Sena Ewropeja ta' c-cittadinanza demokratika
permezz ta' l-edukazzjoni

**Il-Kunsilli Lokali
ta' Colle Umberto - Provincia ta' Treviso - Italja
u ta' San Lawrenz - Ghawdex - Malta
Flimkien mal-Assocjazzjonijiet
ghal Gemellagg rispettivi taghhom**

SOTTOSCRIVONO L'IMPEGNO

Li instaurare legami permanenti tra le due cittadinanze, coinvolgendo le Istituzioni e Associazioni, affinché dal confronto delle diverse realtà ed attività possa derivare arricchimento di conoscenze utili per il raggiungimento della cittadinanza democratica per gli abitanti dei due Comuni.

Li favorire in ogni campo gli scambi tra i loro abitanti per lo studio e approfondimento di diversi modelli di sviluppo, confrontando le nuove esperienze nei settori della vita culturale, sociale ed economica della propria Comunità, avendo degli interscambi di settore fra i due Comuni.

Con il presente patto di gemellaggio si impegnano per il raggiungimento degli obiettivi indicati, convinti che in questa maniera si contribuirà ad attuare un processo di civiltà e di progresso per il bene di tutti i propri abitanti e ad operare a favore della pace, della giustizia e della solidarietà internazionale.

Edoardo Scarpis
Sindaco di Colle Umberto

Noel Formosa
Sindaco di San Lawrenz

Romano Volpato
Sindaco Associazione Gemellaggio
Colle Umberto

Noel Formosa (pro tempore)
Presidente Comitato Gemellaggio
San Lawrenz

SOLENNAMENT JIDDIKJARAW IR-RIEDA SODA

Li jwaqqfu rabtiet dejjiema bejn in-nies taz-zewg lokalitajiet, bis-sehem skih ta' l-Ghaqdiet u l-Assocjazzjonijiet, bil-ghan li permezz ta' skambji tar-rejalitajiet differenti taghna naslu ghal esperjenzi li jghinuna nuseddqu c-cittadinanza demokratika ta' c-cittadini taghna.

Li usostnu f'kull aspett skambji bejn ic-cittadini taghna li jistudjaw u janalizzaw mudelli differenti ta' zvilupp f'konfront ma' l-esperjenzi godda fis-setturi differenti tal-hajja kulturali, soċjali u ekonomika tal-komunitajiet taghna.

Ghalhekk b'dan il-patt ta' gemellagg nimpenjaw ruhna li nilhqu l-ghanjiet indikati, b'konvinzjoni li b'dan il-mod nikkontribwixxu b'risq il-process ta' civiltà u l-progress ghal gid ta' c-cittadini taghna u ghal hidna sinciera b'risq il-paci, gustizzja u solidarjeta' internazzjonali.

Edoardo Scarpis
Sindku ta' Colle Umberto

Romano Volpato
Pres. Assocjazzjoni ghal- Gemellagg
Colle Umberto

Noel Formosa
Sindku ta' San Lawrenz

Noel Formosa (pro tempore)
Pres. Kumitat tal-Gemellagg
San Lawrenz



II - Giurament tal - Gemellagg

Lokali ta' San Laurenz, Gozo, Malta - Xunsill Lokali ta' Colle Umberto, Treviso, Italia

Formosa - Sindku tal-Xunsill Lokali ta' San Laurenz,
Eduardo Scarpis - Sindku tal-Xunsill Lokali ta' Colle Umberto.

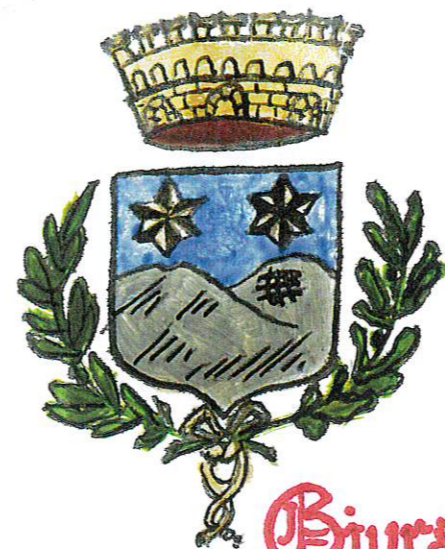
- ~ eletti demokratikament minn i-cittadini tagħna;
- ~ sensibbli għar-xewqat u l-bżonnijiet tal-popli tagħna;
- ~ konvinti li lokalitajiet tagħna, sa mill-foqgħien tagħhom, dejjem iffluwaw parti minn civiltà ewropeja ibbazata fuq il-libertà u s-solidarjetà;
- ~ konvinti li kulljum qed tinfetx pagna jdidha fl-istorja ta' l-umanità, storja li tista' tkun biss verament waħda umana meta l-għus kollha jkunu jistgħu jgħixu tridha fi bliet u ttridha li jkunu liberi.

27 ta' Lulju 2005, fit-Parra ta' San Laurenz, San Laurenz, Gozo, Malta
ura ta' i-cittadini tagħna u ta' l-awtoritajiet detentati hannu preżenti
Golemmament Nqabilfu li:

- ~ inqas rabta u kollaborazzjoni intima bejn iż-żewġ lokalitajiet tagħna;
- ~ min koragixxu skambji ta' setturi varji tal-lokalitajiet tagħna, bl-għan li nqiluppaw għar, ien recipros tal-trajta tagħna, f'ambjent li jipponimewni il-fraternità ewropeja, ngħaqdu l-iżforzi tagħna, fl-aktar mod possibbli, biex bi-aktar mod possibbli, nqurdu l-paċi u l-għid fl-ħajja tal-popli tagħna u ta' l-umanità kollha kemm hi.

Formosa
ta' San Laurenz
u jgħid li jkun il-frem tagħna, il-President ta' l-Assoċjazzjonijiet tal-żewġ lokalitajiet:

Eduardo Scarpis
Sindku ta' Colle Umberto



Giuramento Del Gemellaggio

Comune San Laurenz - Gozo - Malta - Comune di Colle Umberto - Treviso - Italia.

Noi
Noel Formosa - Sindaco del Comune di San Laurenz,
Eduardo Scarpis - Sindaco del Comune di Colle Umberto

- ~ eletti democraticamente dai nostri cittadini;
- ~ sensibili alle aspirazioni profonde e ai vari bisogni della nostra gente;
- ~ convinti che le nostre località fanno parte fin dalla nascita di una civiltà Europea, basata sulla libertà e la solidarietà;
- ~ consapevoli che ogni giorno si scrive una nuova pagina della storia dell'umanità, storia che sarà veramente umana soltanto quando tutti possono vivere liberi in libere città;

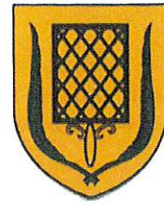
Oggi, 27 luglio 2005, nella Parra di San Laurenz - Gozo - Malta,
alla presenza dei cittadini e delle Autorità intervenute
Golemmamente Giuriamo:

- ~ di mantenere stretti legami fra i nostri comuni;
- ~ di incoraggiare scambi in vari settori della nostre località, sviluppando una conoscenza reciproca, che favorisca la fraternità europea;
- ~ di unire le nostre forze, nel miglior modo possibile, per portare la pace e la prosperità nella vita della nostra gente e di tutta l'umanità.

Noel Formosa
Sindaco di San Laurenz

Eduardo Scarpis
Sindaco di Colle Umberto

Appoggiano con noi la firma il Presidente delle Associazioni per il Gemellaggio.



Nimxu 'l Quddiem, b'Saħħitna u Maqġhuda

Aħna hawn taħt iffirmati, Sindki ta' Colle Umberto fir-Reġjun tal-Veneto, fl-Italja u ta' San Lawrenz fir-Reġjun ta' Għawdex f' Malta, quddiem ir-residenti miż-żewġ lokalitajiet, mlaqqa' ġewwa Colle Umberto, illum 8 ta' Diċembru 2022, iġeddu u jiddikjaraw li ser ikompli jaħdmu sabiex iġibu 'l quddiem l-patt ta' ħbiberija (mehmuża ma' dan id-dokument) iffirmati u maqbula f' Lulju 2005 ġewwa San Lawrenz Għawdex, b'enfasi fuq il-futur tal-Ewropa msejjes fuq it-tfal u ż-żgħażaġh.

Qed jimpenjaw ruħhom ukoll sabiex ikomplu joħolqu proġetti li permezz tagħhom jressqu lil xulxin liż-żewġ lokalitajiet bir-reġjuni rispettivi tagħhom sabiex ikomplu jsaħħu l-għaqda u l-prosperita fl-Ewropa.

Iffirmat

Noel Formosa
Sindku San Lawrenz



Sebastiano Coletti
Sindku Colle Umberto

Andare avanti, forti e uniti

I sottoscritti, Sindaci di Colle Umberto nella Regione Veneto, Italia e San Lawrenz nella Regione di Gozo a Malta, alla presenza dei residenti di entrambe le località, riuniti a Colle Umberto, oggi 8 dicembre 2022, rinnovano e dichiarano che continueranno a lavorare per portare avanti il patto di amicizia (allegato al presente documento) firmato e concordato nel luglio 2005 a San Lawrenz Gozo, con particolare attenzione al futuro dell'Europa basata su bambini e giovani.

Si stanno inoltre impegnando a creare ulteriori progetti che avvicineranno entrambe le località alle rispettive regioni al fine di rafforzare ulteriormente l'unità e la prosperità in Europa.

Firmato

Noel Formosa
Sindaco San Lawrenz



Sebastiano Coletti
Sindaco Colle Umberto



Moving on, Healthy and United

San Lawrenz Local Council - Malta
Comune di Colle Umberto - Italia



Introduction

San Lawrenz and Colle Umberto have a long history of partnership– they have been twinned municipalities since 2005, and carried out twinning projects together in 2005, 2007, 2011 and 2015. Moreover, activities like youth exchanges, Festivals, English language courses and others were organized together during these 27 years. This twinning relationship has been maintained over the years through continuous efforts of collaboration, and because our localities' characteristics make for a solid foundation for dialogue based on shared realities; we are both very small localities, heavily based on agriculture, and with strong cultural traditions based on a Mediterranean background. We firmly believe that such a partnership, like any other collaboration, must be regenerated through new platforms of dialogue and commitments to understand each other and work together. This is especially so given the unprecedented challenges the world has been through in the past 3 years, from the pandemic that has affected every aspect of our lives, to the war in Ukraine in the past year, making us realise that peace in Europe is far from guaranteed and not to be taken for granted.



For this reason, a joint programme of activities in Colle Umberto was organized bringing representatives from both communities together to renew our ties as a way to discuss and face these challenges together. It is important more than ever that our citizens understand and live the value of solidarity, tolerance, and mutual understanding as the basis for peace and prosperity. During this twinning events in Colle Umberto, which took place between 7th and 11th December 2022, where we will be exploring the issues of:

1. The impact of Covid on small rural localities, across multiple spheres of life - the economy, society, culture and identity, exploring lessons learned from the pandemic and the way forward for small rural localities;
2. The future of the EU, especially within its role as a peace project, and the future we envisage as European citizens; and
3. Promoting and strengthening the twinning relationship between San Lawrenz and Colle Umberto.

Addressing Priorities

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our small local communities:



During the programme of activities, how the pandemic has affected our respective communities, from our agricultural-based economy, our way of life and our cultural heritage, social ties, and identity was discussed. ‘Research for AGRI Committee – Preliminary impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on European Agriculture: a sector-based analysis of food systems and market resilience’¹, a report by the European Parliament finds that, while the sector was more resilient than expected, sectors highly dependent on the food service (e.g. wine, beef and veal) have faced major difficulties. Flowers and plants and sugar have also suffered considerable financial losses. Farm incomes also declined compared to 2019 (-7.9% corresponding to EUR 7.1 billion). Food and drink production (-9% in the second quarter of 2020 compared to 2019) and the food service sector (60-90% of estimated losses compared to 2019) suffered as well.

Social distancing measures severely hit those activities tied to our cultural identity and heritage, such as museums, performing arts, live music, festivals, etc. A paper published in September 2020 by the OECD, ‘Culture shock: COVID-19 and the cultural and creative sectors’², reports that the lower levels of international and domestic tourism, drop in purchasing power, and reductions of public and private funding for arts and culture, especially at the local level, could amplify this negative trend even further. This “downsizing of cultural and creative sectors will have a negative impact on regions in terms of jobs and revenues, levels of

¹ [Preliminary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on European agriculture: a sector-based analysis of food systems and market resilience \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/en/research-for-agri-committee-preliminary-impacts-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-european-agriculture-a-sector-based-analysis-of-food-systems-and-market-resilience)

² [Culture shock: COVID-19 and the cultural and creative sectors \(oecd.org\)](https://www.oecd.org/culture/culture-shock-covid-19-and-the-cultural-and-creative-sectors/)

innovation, citizen well-being and the vibrancy and diversity of communities". The negative impact of the limiting of in-person social interactions on communities' psychological health has also been widely studied and observed across the world. The World Happiness Report reports³ that, in 2020, reports of happiness and life satisfaction saw one of the largest declines during the pandemic, along with mental and physical health, together with declines in meaning in life and overall flourishing. As small localities, Covid has come with its particular challenges, especially given that we are both localities in which agriculture plays a significant role and whose sense of identity is closely tied to expressions of cultural heritage such as feasts, festivals and the arts. At the same time, the pandemic has accelerated trends like digitalisation and innovation.

Through the workshops, the participants discussed these issues, the lessons learned during this experience, sharing good practices, as well as proposing ways in which the difficulties brought on by the pandemic can be surmounted.

A sense of belonging to Europe and the future of Europe:



All throughout the EU, we are seeing citizens realising that the EU-wide peace that our joint partnership ensures, as well as our safety in our partnership, is not something to be taken for granted. Never before in our lifetimes have we seen the EU's role as an advocate for peace on the continent take a more prominent and needed role than at the moment. Moreover, Ukraine being invaded as a direct authoritarian challenge to its European values, including democracy and the right of self-determination, also underscores that democratic values and democracy in general has to be protected and invested in.

³ [Social Connection and Well-Being during COVID-19 | The World Happiness Report](#)

As per the study carried out by the EU External Action Service, ‘The war in Ukraine and its implications for the EU’⁴, the report notes, “Putin’s war against Ukraine has already caused thousands of death but also major economic damages globally... we are also seeing significant effects in Europe, with energy and other prices rising and probably set to continue to do so”, with inflation already an issue. Moreover, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine will have serious knock-on effects that could be "painful" for Europe’s farmers and the broader global food system.

Beyond the economic effects, the psychological effects on people have been clear to us as local authorities. The shock of the return of war to European soil, after so many decades of largely peaceful relations at home and in our near abroad, has been striking. At the same time, one consequence has been how the EU has come together in the face of this to stand firm and defend democratic values and fundamental rights. It has heightened awareness amongst Europeans of how fragile peace and stability can be, and of the role that the EU has played in guaranteeing them for the past 70 years – to the point where citizens have even grown complacent about democracy. Never before in our recent history have we observed such critical times for the EU’s future, and it is important more than ever that our citizens understand and live the values of solidarity, tolerance, and mutual understanding as the basis for peace.

These twin crises have formed a watershed moment for the EU and for Europeans’ future. Within this context, we believe that it is crucial to ensure that our citizens have the space and opportunity to discuss these problems and how they are affecting them in their day-to-day lives. This reality means that our citizens need to be engaged in a process of dialogue and exchanges to reflect on these trends, understand the benefits of the EU, and reinforce citizens’ belonging to it. The project allowed citizens of both communities to meet with EU policymakers, and come up with their own ideas and proposals on what they believe the future of the EU should be like, together in a joint discussion.

Full Participation

The programme of activities carried out between the 7th and 11th December 2022, included workshops discussing the above three topics through a combination of different activities, allowing participants to get a more nuanced understanding of the issues at hand by getting to know different perspectives. To attain full participation from all participants, the following activities and methodologies were used:

- ✓ Meetings with experts working at regional, national and European for a were held. Through these meetings we facilitated knowledge sharing and participants’ understanding of the nature and future of the EU. Being from small rural localities, it is important to reinforce the feeling of belonging to the EU and therefore this type of direct contact with policymakers is important in this regard.
- ✓ Citizen-lead discussions and workshops for proposal making, which allowed space and a platform for direct discussion with each other, allowing us to reflect on current trends, suggesting possible actions, and promote a culture of democratic exchange between us.

⁴ [The war in Ukraine and its implications for the EU | EEAS \(europa.eu\)](#)

✓ A public cultural activity, which was the tangible expression of intercultural dialogue and cultural exchange. The activity broadened the participation of the wider public. This raised awareness on the richness of the cultural environment in Europe, promoting mutual understanding and contributing to the development of our European identity.

✓ Discussed future activities between the two localities, so that the twinning relationship between San Lawrenz and Colle Umberto is continuously being refreshed based on new ideas to ensure its sustainability. The Council re-affirmed the original Twinning pledge in front of all the members and residents and vowed to continue work in order to bring the two counties together.



Recommendations

As a result of the different workshops, the following are the conclusions and recommendations put forward, focusing on four main elements:

- Foster of **cross-cultural understanding** and collaboration: The workshops and events that brought together people from different backgrounds, were beneficial in breaking down barriers and promoting understanding. Public entities at local level should carry out more workshops and events that bring people together to discuss. Local governing authorities already carry out such workshops and meetings, however there is a lack of participation. This might be the result that the agenda of such meetings include more presentations from key speakers rather than engaging participation. Lack of attendance might also be the result of lack of promotion and more general meetings targeting the whole community. Instead it was suggested that local meetings should be more targeted, carried out in different locations and have less time for key experts to present while increase the time allocated for discussions.
- Invest in **education**: Education was said to be crucial for a country's long-term success. It is important to invest in education systems that are inclusive, equitable, and provide opportunities for all students to succeed. Representatives from the local public authorities should participate in activities carried out in schools at elementary stage, so that from a young age, pupils will get to know the people who are making a difference in their locality. Apart from this, the Local Authorities should also carry out workshops or educational activities, promoting inclusion and also the participation of students, especially during the holidays period.
- Promote **economic growth**: Strong economic growth is important for improving the standard of living for citizens and creating jobs. This is not always easy for local governing authorities to control, especially in countries such as Malta, where legislations are carried out by the national government. However, the local authorities should create an environment and invest their energy, voluntary work and allocated financial resources in those areas which will create a multiplier effect in the private sector, thus creating an environment where the business will be ready to invest. Each locality should have more than one economic sector, to have a diverse and balanced economic basket.
- **Networking** with other European countries: Both entities will continue to increase their networking with other local authorities from other European countries, mainly focusing on Easter European countries. The aim is to create more partnerships and activities bringing the communities and the business sectors together. This will enrich the social, cultural and economic sectors of all participating local governing bodies.



Kunsill Lokali San Lawrenz
Comune di Colle Umberto
January, 2023