

LOCAL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements**

for the year ended 31 December 2024



Prepared by

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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 DECEMBER 2024

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Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Executive Committee Members' and Executive Secretary's Responsibilities

The Local Councils (Financial) Regulations' require the Executive Secretary to prepare a detailed annual administrative report which includes the Association's statement of comprehensive income for the year and a statement of the Association's retained funds at the end of year. By virtue of the same regulations it is the duty of the Committee Members and the Executive Secretary to ensure that the financial statements forming part of the report present fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies applicable to Local Councils, the income and expenditure of the Association for the year and its retained funds as at the year end, and that they comply with the Act, the Local Councils (Financial) Regulations, and the Local Councils (Financial) Procedures issued in terms of the said Act.

The Executive Secretary is responsible to maintain a continuous internal control to ascertain that the accounting, recording and other financial operations are properly conducted in accordance with the Local Councils Act, Local Councils (Financial) Regulations, and the Local Councils (Financial) Procedures. The Executive Secretary is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This statement was approved by the Local Councils' Association on the 27th February 2025 and was signed on its behalf by:



Mario Fava
President

Lianne Cassar
Executive Secretary

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2024

		2024 €	2023 €
	<i>Notes</i>		
Income			
Funds received from Central Government	5	490,000	490,000
EU funded projects		-	182
General income	6	650,556	1,283,785
		<u>1,140,556</u>	<u>1,773,967</u>
Expenditure			
Personal emoluments	8	(231,906)	(214,480)
Administrative and other expenditure	9	(1,038,080)	(1,540,812)
		<u>(1,269,986)</u>	<u>(1,755,292)</u>
Operating (deficit)/surplus for the year		(129,430)	18,675
Finance income	10	29,161	13,885
Finance cost	11	(120)	(5,835)
Total comprehensive (deficit)/surplus for the year		<u>(100,389)</u>	<u>26,725</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 24 are an integral part of the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2024

		2024 €	2023 €
	<i>Notes</i>		
ASSETS			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	12	368,767	299,461
Intangible assets	13	2,797	5,459
Right of use assets	23	-	6,188
		<u>371,564</u>	<u>311,108</u>
Current Assets			
Receivables	14	565,505	537,236
Cash and cash equivalents	15	1,333,146	1,503,944
		<u>1,898,651</u>	<u>2,041,180</u>
Total Assets		<u>2,270,215</u>	<u>2,352,288</u>
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES			
Reserves			
Retained fund		<u>1,558,730</u>	<u>1,659,119</u>
Current Liabilities			
Lease liabilities	17,23	-	7,275
Payables	16	<u>711,485</u>	<u>685,894</u>
		<u>711,485</u>	<u>693,169</u>
Total Equity and Liabilities		<u>2,270,215</u>	<u>2,352,288</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Local Councils' Association on the 27th February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mario Fava
President



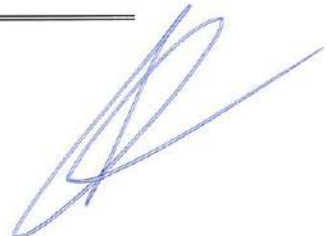
Lianne Cassar
Executive Secretary

The notes on pages 8 to 24 are an integral part of the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Retained funds €
At 1 January 2023	1,632,394
Total comprehensive surplus for the year 2023	26,725
At 31 December 2023	1,659,119
At 1 January 2024	1,659,119
Total comprehensive deficit for the year 2024	(100,389)
At 31 December 2024	1,558,730



The notes on pages 8 to 24 are an integral part of the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

		2024 €	2023 €
	<i>Notes</i>		
Cash flows from Operating Activities			
Total comprehensive (deficit)/surplus for the year		(100,389)	26,725
Reconciliation to cash generated from operations:			
Depreciation and amortisation	12, 13	40,532	32,671
Depreciation on right-of-use asset	23	6,188	29,817
Profit on disposal of asset	9	(875)	(1,896)
Interest income	10	(29,161)	(13,885)
Interest expense		120	5,835
Operating profit before working capital changes		(83,585)	79,267
Interest received		29,161	13,885
(Increase)/decrease in receivables		(28,269)	233,258
Increase/(decrease) in payables		23,876	(1,108,034)
Cash used in operating activities		(58,817)	(781,624)
Cash flows from Investing Activities			
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant & equipment		875	-
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	12	(107,176)	(123,819)
Cash used in investing activities		(106,301)	(123,819)
Cash flows from Financing Activities			
Lease payments	23	(5,680)	(36,530)
Cash used in financing activities		(5,680)	(36,530)
Net decrease in Cash and cash equivalents		(170,798)	(941,973)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,503,944	2,445,917
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	15	1,333,146	1,503,944

The notes on pages 8 to 24 are an integral part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. General Information

Local Councils' Association is a local and regional authority set up in accordance with the Local Councils Act, (Cap 363) and the Local Councils (Association) Regulations (Cap 363.06). The office of the Local Councils' Association is situated at Local Government Building, Local Government Road, Marsa Industrial Estate, Marsa, Malta. These financial statements were approved for issue by the Association's Members on the 27th February 2025. The Association's presentation as well as functional currency is denominated in €.

2. Reporting Procedures

Accounting convention

These financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified to include fair values where it is stated in the accounting policies below. These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Councils Act Cap. 363, the Financial Regulations issued in terms of this Act and the Local Councils (Financial) Procedures 1996 enacted in Malta and with the requirements of the International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU.

These financial statements have been drawn up in accordance with the accounting policies and reporting procedures prescribed for Local Councils in the Financial Regulations issued by the Minister of Finance in conjunction with the Minister responsible for Local Government in terms of section 67 of the Local Councils Act (Cap. 363).

New or revised Standards or Interpretations

New standards adopted as at 1 January 2024

Some accounting pronouncements which have become effective from 1 January 2024 and have therefore been adopted do not have a significant impact on the Association's financial results or position.

Other Standards and amendments that are effective for the first time in 2024 and could be applicable to the Association are:

- Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendments to IAS 1)
- Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16)
- Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7)
- Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1)

These amendments do not have a significant impact on these financial statements and therefore no disclosures have been made.

Standards, amendments and Interpretations to existing Standards that are not yet effective and have not been adopted early by the Association

At the date of authorisation of these financial statements, several new, but not yet effective, Standards and amendments to existing Standards, and Interpretations have been published by the IASB or IFRIC. None of these Standards or amendments to existing Standards have been adopted early by the Association and no Interpretations have been issued that are applicable and need to be taken into consideration by the Association.

Other Standards and amendments that are not yet effective and have not been adopted early by the Association include:

- Lack of Exchangeability (Amendments to IAS 21)
- Amendments to the Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments (Amendments to IFRS 9 and 7)
- IFRS 18 'Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements'
- IFRS 19 'Subsidiaries without Public Accountability: Disclosures'

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)

2. Reporting Procedures (cont.)

These amendments are not expected to have a significant impact on the financial statements in the period of initial application and therefore no disclosures have been made.

Management anticipates that all relevant pronouncements will be adopted for the first period beginning on or after the effective date of the pronouncement. New standards, amendments and interpretations not adopted in the current year have not been disclosed as they are not expected to have a material impact on the Association's financial statements.

3. Material Accounting Policies

An entity should disclose its material accounting policies. Accounting policies are material and must be disclosed if they can be reasonably expected to influence the decisions of users of the financial statements.

Management has concluded that the disclosure of the entity's material accounting policies below are appropriate.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses to date. Depreciation is calculated on a monthly basis using the straight line method at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

	%
Office furniture and fittings	7.5
Office equipment	20
Computer equipment	25

Gains and losses on disposal of property, plant and equipment are determined by reference to their carrying amount and are taken into account in determining operating profit. The residual values and useful lives of the assets are reviewed and adjusted as appropriate, at each statement of financial position date. The carrying amount of an asset is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the carrying amount of the asset is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Subsequent costs are included in the carrying amount of the asset or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Association and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the statement of comprehensive income during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Assets not yet capitalised represent costs incurred on projects of the Association which are still not finalised and is stated at cost. These include landscaping and a custom made customer care IT system. Costs included under assets not yet capitalised will be transferred to computer software and improvements to premises upon completion. The account is not depreciated until such time that the asset is completed and available for use.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets include acquired computer software. It is accounted for using the cost model whereby capitalised cost is amortised on a straight-line basis over its estimated useful life, as this asset is considered finite. Residual value and useful life are reviewed at each reporting date. In addition, it is subject to impairment testing.

The following rate is applied:

	%
Computer Software	25

Acquired computer software is capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and install the specific software. Fully amortised assets are retained in the accounts until these are no longer in use and no further charge for amortisation is made in respect of those asset.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)

3. Material Accounting Policies (cont.)

Leases

The Association as a lessee

At inception of a contract, the Association assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period in exchange for consideration. To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, the Association assesses whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset – this may be specified explicitly or implicitly and should be physically distinct or represent substantially all the capacity of a physically distinct asset. If the supplier has a substantive substitution right, then the asset is not identified.
- The Association has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- The Association has the right to direct the use of the asset. The Association has this right when it has the decision-making rights that are most relevant to changing how and for what purpose the asset is used. In rare cases where all the decisions about how and for what purpose the asset is used are predetermined, the Association has the right to direct the use of the asset if either:
 - The Association has the right to operate the asset; or
 - The Association designed the asset in a way that predetermines how and for what purpose it will be used.

At inception or on reassessment of a contract that contains a lease component, the Association allocates the consideration in the contract to each lease component on the basis of their relative stand-alone prices. However, for the leases of land and buildings in which it is a lessee, the Association has elected not to separate non-lease components and account for the lease and non-lease components as a single lease component.

The Association recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, plus any initial direct costs incurred and an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, the Association's incremental borrowing rate. Generally, the Association uses its incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise:

- fixed payments, including in-substance fixed payments;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- The exercise price under a purchase option that the Association is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if the Association is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless the Association is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

The lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. It is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, if there is a change in the Association's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee or if the Association changes its assessment of whether it will exercise a purchase, extension or termination option.

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

The Association presents separately right-of-use assets in the statement of financial position

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)

3. Material Accounting Policies (cont.)

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Association has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of machinery that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets, including IT equipment. The Association recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The Association as a lessor

As a lessor, the Association classifies its leases as either operating or finance leases. The Association assessed whether it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. Those assets that do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards are classified as operating leases.

Rental income is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease term and is recognised as an income in the statement of comprehensive income.

Impairment of non financial assets

Assets that are subject to amortisation or depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of the fair value of the asset less costs to sell and the value in use. Impairment losses are immediately recognised as an expense in the statement of comprehensive income.

Receivables

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of receivables are established when there is objective evidence that the Association will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the present value of the estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. The amount of the provision is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Government Grants

Government grants relating to administrative and other expenditure are recognized in the statement of comprehensive income in the same period that the related expenditure is incurred. Government grants relating to the purchase of property, plant and equipment are accounted for using the capital approach and are thus deducted from the carrying amount of the relative non-current asset.

Other payables

Other payables are classified with current liabilities and are stated at their nominal value unless the effect of discounting is material in which case trade and other payables are measure at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial instruments

Recognition and derecognition

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Association becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or when the financial asset and all substantial risks and rewards are transferred. A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished, discharged, cancelled or expires.

Classification and initial measurement of financial assets

Except for those trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component and are measured at the transaction price in accordance with IFRS 15, all financial assets are initially measured at fair value adjusted for transaction costs (where applicable).

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)

3. Material Accounting Policies (cont.)

Financial assets are classified into the following categories:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)
- fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI).

The Association does not have any financial assets categorised as FVTPL and FVOCI in the periods presented.

The classification is determined by both:

- the entity's business model for managing the financial asset; and
- the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset.

All income and expenses relating to financial assets that are recognised in statement of comprehensive income are presented within 'finance costs', 'finance income' or 'other financial items'.

Subsequent measurement of financial assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost if the assets meet the following conditions (and are not designated as FVTPL):

- they are held within a business model whose objective is to hold the financial assets and collect its contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms of the financial assets give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The Association's cash and cash equivalents, and most receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

Impairment of financial assets

IFRS 9's impairment requirements use more forward-looking information to recognise expected credit losses – the 'expected credit loss (ECL) model'. Instruments within the scope of the new requirements included loans and other debt-type financial assets measured at amortised cost and FVOCI, trade receivables, contract assets recognised and measured under IFRS 15 and loan commitments and some financial guarantee contracts (for the issuer) that are not measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Recognition of credit losses is no longer dependent on the Association first identifying a credit loss event. Instead, the Association considers a broader range of information when assessing credit risk and measuring expected credit losses, including past events, current conditions, reasonable and supportable forecasts that affect the expected collectability of the future cash flows of the instrument.

In applying this forward-looking approach, a distinction is made between:

- financial instruments that have not deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition or that have low credit risk ('Stage 1') and
- financial instruments that have deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition and whose credit risk is not low ('Stage 2').

'Stage 3' would cover financial assets that have objective evidence of impairment at the reporting date. '12-month expected credit losses' are recognised for the first category while 'lifetime expected credit losses' are recognised for the second category.

Measurement of the expected credit losses is determined by a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of the financial instrument.

Classification and measurement of financial liabilities

The Association's financial liabilities include lease liabilities and payables.

Financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, and, where applicable, adjusted for transaction costs unless the Association designates a financial liability at fair value through profit or loss.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)

3. Material Accounting Policies (cont.)

Subsequently, financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method except for derivatives and financial liabilities designated at FVTPL, which are carried subsequently at fair value with gains or losses recognised in profit or loss (other than derivative financial instruments that are designated and effective as hedging instruments).

All interest-related charges and, if applicable, changes in an instrument's fair value that are reported in statement of comprehensive income are included within 'finance costs' or 'finance income'.

Related parties

Related parties are those persons or bodies of persons having relationships with the Association as defined in International Accounting Standard No. 24.

Income recognition

Income is recognised at the fair value of the amount received or receivable, to the extent that it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Association and these can be measured reliably.

Interest income is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the effective interest rate applicable, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial assets to that asset's net carrying amount.

Government grants are recognised when there is reasonable assurance that all conditions attaching to them are complied with and the grants will be received. Government grants related to income are recognised in profit or loss over the periods necessary to match them with the related costs which are intended to compensate, on a systematic basis. Such grants are presented as an income in the statement of comprehensive income.

Local Enforcement income

Local Enforcement income represents the income as it accrues from contraventions as controlled by the Local Enforcement System (L.E.S.). The Local Councils' Association does not form part of any Joint Committee. The function of the Association within the system is to manage the bank account in which the LES Online receipts are deposited and then distribute the paid contraventions to the various Local Councils. The amounts disclosed in the financial statements under Local Enforcement payables is the net of the cash held at the bank, into which the LES Online deposits are credited and the amount of contravention receipts, so credited, that were not yet distributed by year end. The notes within the cash and cash equivalents and payables further illustrate the situation.

Profits and losses

Only surpluses that were realised at the date of the statement of financial position are recognised in these financial statements. All foreseeable liabilities and potential losses arising up to the said date are accounted for even if they become apparent between the said date and the date on which the financial statements are approved.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are carried in the statement of financial position at face value. For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and balances held with banks.

Capital Management

The Association's capital consists of its net assets, including working capital, represented by its retained funds. The Association's management objectives are to ensure:

- that the Association's ability to continue as a going concern is still valid and
- that the Association maintains a positive working capital ratio.

To achieve the above, the Association carries out a quarterly review of the working capital ratio ("Financial Situation Indicator"). This ratio was positive at the reporting date and has not changed significantly from the previous year. The Association also uses budgets and business plans to set its strategy to optimise its use of available funds and implement its commitments to the locality.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)**4. Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS as adopted by the EU requires the Association to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Use of available information and application of judgement are inherent in making estimates. Actual results in future could differ from such estimates and the differences may be material to the financial statements. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

In the opinion of the Association, the accounting estimates and judgements made in the course of preparing these financial statements are not difficult, subjective or complex to a degree which would warrant their description as critical in terms of the requirements of IAS 1.

5. Funds received from Central Government

	2024 €	2023 €
In terms of Section 55 of the Local Councils Act, 1993 (Cap 363)	<u>490,000</u>	<u>490,000</u>

6. General income

	2024 €	2023 €
Reimbursement of travel expenses	792	1,183
Reimbursement of insurance expenses	159,039	155,854
Registration fees from local conferences	-	300
Organic waste collection income	-	546,608
LES management fees	303,950	301,086
Other management fees	50,000	50,000
Other income	136,775	228,754
	<u>650,556</u>	<u>1,283,785</u>

7. (Deficit)/Surplus for the year

	2024 €	2023 €
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year is stated after charging		
Staff salaries	231,906	214,480
Depreciation and amortisation	40,532	32,671
Depreciation on right-of-use asset	<u>6,188</u>	<u>29,817</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)**8. Personal emoluments**

	2024	2023
	€	€
President's allowance	22,660	22,158
Elected officers' allowances	33,236	32,498
Executive Secretary salary and allowances	45,931	44,573
Employees' salaries	116,302	102,854
Social Security Contributions	13,777	12,397
	<u>231,906</u>	<u>214,480</u>

9. Administrative and other expenditure

	2024	2023
	€	€
Utilities	8,238	8,221
Repair and upkeep	14,615	16,618
Rent	16,471	-
National and international memberships	15,039	9,172
Office services	17,732	16,370
Travelling costs	50,754	29,822
Refundable tickets	792	1,184
Transport	21,295	15,188
Information services	46,808	41,411
Organic waste collection	-	546,688
Other contractual service	186,267	182,338
Bank charges	619	1,338
Training	4,735	5,764
Conferences	35,393	64,197
Community & hospitality	573,477	541,910
Profit on disposal of property, plant & equipment	(875)	(1,896)
Depreciation on right of use assets	6,188	29,816
Depreciation and amortisation	40,532	32,671
	<u>1,038,080</u>	<u>1,540,812</u>

10. Finance income

	2024	2023
	€	€
Bank interest	<u>29,161</u>	<u>13,885</u>

11. Finance cost

	2024	2023
	€	€
Lease interest	<u>120</u>	<u>5,835</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)**12. Property, plant and equipment**

	Office furniture & fittings €	Office equipment €	Computer equipment €	Assets not yet capitalised €	Total €
Cost					
At 1 January 2024	392,875	88,227	46,641	43,167	570,910
Additions	81,457	11,218	3,190	11,311	107,176
Disposal	-	-	(925)	-	(925)
At 31 December 2024	474,332	99,445	48,906	54,478	677,161
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2024	55,284	67,855	35,933	-	159,072
Charge for the year	24,207	9,462	4,201	-	37,870
Released on disposal	-	-	(925)	-	(925)
At 31 December 2024	79,491	77,317	39,209	-	196,017
Grants					
At 1 January 2024	112,377	-	-	-	112,377
At 31 December 2024	112,377	-	-	-	112,377
Net Book Values					
At 31 December 2024	282,464	22,128	9,697	54,478	368,767
Cost					
At 1 January 2023	280,155	84,431	39,338	43,167	447,091
Additions	112,720	3,796	7,303	-	123,819
At 31 December 2023	392,875	88,227	46,641	43,167	570,910
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2023	41,234	57,037	32,703	-	130,974
Charge for the year	15,946	10,818	3,230	-	29,994
Released on disposal	(1,896)	-	-	-	(1,896)
At 31 December 2023	55,284	67,855	35,933	-	159,072
Grants					
At 1 January 2023	-	-	-	15,099	15,099
Additions	97,278	-	-	-	97,278
Reclassification	15,099	-	-	(15,099)	-
At 31 December 2023	112,377	-	-	-	112,377
Net Book Values					
At 31 December 2023	225,214	20,372	10,708	43,167	299,461

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)

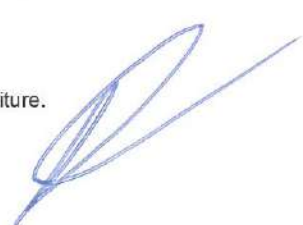
13. Intangible assets

	Computer software €
Cost	
At 1 January 2024	14,089
At 31 December 2024	<u>14,089</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2024	8,630
Charge for the year	2,662
At 31 December 2024	<u>11,292</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2024	<u><u>2,797</u></u>

	Computer software €
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	14,089
At 31 December 2023	<u>14,089</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2023	5,953
Charge for the year	2,677
At 31 December 2023	<u>8,630</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2023	<u><u>5,459</u></u>



Amortisation of intangible assets is recognised in administrative and other expenditure.



Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)**14. Receivables**

	2024	2023
	€	€
Current		
Other receivables	54,349	3,879
Accrued income	75,192	54,506
Refundable expenditure in respect to EU and other Projects	394,678	394,678
Law Enforcement Receivable - Note 14.1	10,829	53,802
Financial assets	535,048	506,865
Prepayments	30,457	30,371
Total Receivables	565,505	537,236

Receivables

Other receivables are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	€	€
Within credit period	54,349	3,879
	54,349	3,879

Included in the accounts receivable are amounts due from related parties amounting to €50,000 (2023 : €569). These amounts are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

Refundable expenditure is stated net of provision for bad debts of €52,482 (2023: €52,482).

15. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in hand and at bank. Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of Cash Flows comprise of the following amounts in the Association's statement of financial position:

	2024	2023
	€	€
Cash at Bank		
Current and savings accounts	1,332,858	1,653,879
LES Savings accounts	1,864,800	2,670,476
Cash in Hand	288	65
	3,197,946	4,324,420
(less) LES Savings account transferred to payables	(1,864,800)	(2,670,476)
(less) Regional Committees/Local Councils funds transferred to payables	-	(150,000)
Local Councils' Association's cash & cash equivalents	1,333,146	1,503,944

LOCAL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)

16. Payables

	2024	2023
	€	€
Current		
Accounts payable	139,815	71,427
Other payables	-	508
Accruals	25,670	22,872
Financial liabilities	165,485	94,807
Deferred income	546,000	582,754
Deferred rental income	-	8,333
Total payables	711,485	685,894

Included in the accounts payable are €5,862 (2023: €7,477) due to related parties. These amounts are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

16.1 Law Enforcement System receivable

	2024	2023
	€	€
LES savings account	1,864,800	2,670,476
Amount distributable to Law Enforcement	(1,853,971)	(2,616,674)
	10,829	53,802

16.2 Regional Committees/Local Councils funds

	2024	2023
	€	€
Regional Committees/Local Councils bank accounts	-	150,000
Amount distributable to Regional Committees/Local Councils	-	(150,000)
	-	-

17. Lease liabilities

	2024	2023
	€	€
Lease Liabilities - Note 23	-	7,275
	-	7,275

18. Ultimate controlling party

The ultimate controlling party is the Department of Local Government within the Ministry for National Heritage, Culture and Local Government. The individual financial statements of the Association are included with the consolidated financial statements of the Government of Malta.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)**19. Capital commitments**

	2024	2023
	€	€
Details of capital commitments at the accounting date are as follows:		
- Approved but not yet contracted for	<u>735,000</u>	<u>710,000</u>
(i) Approved but not yet contracted for:		
Office Furniture and fittings	70,000	30,000
Computer Equipment	10,000	30,000
Office equipment	10,000	5,000
Lift	45,000	45,000
Parking Area	<u>600,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>
	<u>735,000</u>	<u>710,000</u>

These will be mainly financed from the Association's own Funds.

20. Contingent Liability

The Association is subject to a judicial letter filed by Mr John Mary sive Jimmy Magro, filed on the 7th of August 2017. No further action was taken to date.

The Association is subject to a case in front of the PCRB in which the PCRB is requested to declare that a contract signed by the Government of Malta, Enemalta plc and the Association is ineffective. At this stage, no request for damages has been made.

21. Related Party Transactions

During the year under review, the Association carried out transactions with the following related parties:

<i>Name of Entity</i>	<i>Nature of relationship</i>
Department of Local Government	Significant control
Airmalta plc	No control
Bank of Valletta plc	No control
Office of the Prime Minister	No control
Data Commissioner	No control
Malta Industrial Parks	No control

During the course of the year, the Association entered into transactions with related parties which are related through common ultimate controlling party.

The amounts due from / to related parties at year-end are disclosed in notes 14 and 16. The terms and conditions do not specify the nature of the consideration to be provided in settlement. These amounts are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

Key Management compensation

The Association considers the President, Elected Officers and the Executive Secretary to be Key Management Personnel.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)**21. Related Party Transactions (cont.)**

Transactions with key management personnel are disclosed in note 8.

	Related party activity €	2024 Total activity €	%	Related party activity €	2023 Total activity €	%
<i>Income</i>						
Transactions with central government	490,000			490,000		
Transactions with government entities	440,725			529,840		
Transactions with local councils	159,039			156,154		
	<u>1,089,764</u>	<u>1,140,556</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>1,175,994</u>	<u>1,773,967</u>	<u>66</u>
<i>Expenditure</i>						
Transactions with central government	18,543			20,875		
Transactions with government entities	25,639			44,044		
Key personnel remuneration	102,058			101,931		
	<u>146,240</u>	<u>1,269,986</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>166,850</u>	<u>1,755,292</u>	<u>10</u>

22. Fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities

At 31 December 2024 and at 31 December 2023, the carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities classified with current assets and current liabilities respectively, approximated their fair values due to the short term maturities of these assets and liabilities. The fair values of non-current financial assets and non-current financial liabilities are not materially different from their carrying amount.

23. Leases

The Association sub-leased parts of its premises to three related parties during this year for €6,000, 20,000 and €24,600 each per annum respectively and expires on 31 December 2024 and 16 April 2025. Rental income recognised in 2024 amount to €45,600 (2023: €44,600).

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)**23. Leases (cont.)**

'Property, plant and equipment' comprises owned and leased assets that do not meet the definition of investment property. The Association leases assets including land and buildings and motor vehicles. Information about leases for which the Association is a lessee is presented below.

	2024	2023
	€	€
Property, plant and equipment	368,767	299,461
Right-of-use assets	-	6,188
	<u>368,767</u>	<u>305,649</u>

Right-of-use assets

2024	Property	Vehicles	Total
Balance at 1 January	5,834	354	6,188
Depreciation charge for the year	(5,834)	(354)	(6,188)
Balance at 31 December	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
2023	Property	Vehicles	Total
Balance at 1 January	27,583	10,889	38,472
Adjustment	(1,849)	(619)	(2,468)
Depreciation charge for the year	(19,900)	(9,916)	(29,816)
Balance at 31 December	<u>5,834</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>6,188</u>

	2024	2023
	€	€
Lease liabilities		
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	-	34,270
One to five years	-	12,176
Total undiscounted lease liabilities at 31 December	<u>-</u>	<u>46,446</u>
Current	-	7,275
Non-current	-	-
Lease liabilities included in the statement of financial position at 31 December	<u>-</u>	<u>7,275</u>
Amounts recognised in profit or loss		
Interest on lease liabilities - Note 11	(120)	(5,836)
Income from sub-leasing right-of-use assets	45,600	44,600
Amounts recognised in the statement of cash flows		
Total cash outflow for lease	(5,680)	(36,530)

LOCAL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)

24. Financial Risk Management

The contracted maturity of financial liabilities is as follows:

2024	0-90 days	91-180 days	180-365 days	Total
	€	€	€	€
Payables	139,815	-	-	139,815
Accruals	25,670	-	-	25,670
	<u>165,485</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,485</u>
2023	0-90 days	91-180 days	180-365 days	Total
	€	€	€	€
Payables	71,427	-	-	71,427
Accruals	22,872	-	-	22,872
Lease liabilities	7,275	-	-	7,275
Other payables	508	-	-	508
	<u>102,082</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>102,082</u>

The Local Councils' Association's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks such as market risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Local Councils' Association's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Local Councils' Association's financial performance.

Where applicable, any significant changes in the Association's exposure to financial risks or manner in which the Association manages and measures these risks are disclosed below.

Where possible, the Association aims to reduce and control risk concentrations. Concentrations of financial risk arise when financial instruments with similar characteristics are influenced in the same way by changes in economic or other factors. The amount of the risk exposure associated with financial instruments sharing similar characteristics is disclosed in more details in the notes to the financial statements.

Categories of Financial Instruments

	2024	2023
	€	€
<i>Financial assets at amortized costs</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,333,146	1,503,944
Receivables	<u>535,048</u>	<u>506,865</u>
<i>Financial liabilities at amortized costs</i>		
Payables	165,485	102,082

Credit risk

Financial assets which potentially subject the Local Councils' Association to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents and receivables. The Local Councils' Association's cash is placed with quality financial institutions as well as it limits the amount of credit exposure with any one financial institution. The Local Councils' Association has appropriate policies to ensure that income is received from sources with appropriate credit history. In this respect, credit risk with respect to receivables is monitored continuously and the Local Councils' Association places a provision on any debt on which there is doubt of recoverability.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 (cont.)

23. Financial Risk Management (cont.)

The Association does not have any receivables which are past due at the end of the reporting period.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is defined as financial distress, an extraordinary measure which needs to be taken to manage the Local Councils' Association's present commitments arising due to shortage of funds. The objective of liquidity risk management is to maintain sufficient liquidity, and to ensure that it is available within the necessary time frame in order not to create financial distress and curtail current obligations as well as future short term commitments. The Local Councils' Association monitors and manages its risk to a shortage of funds by maintaining sufficient cash and by monitoring the availability of raising funds to meet commitments due. In fact at year end, the Local Councils' Association has as cash and cash equivalents the amount of €1,333,146. This should ensure an ongoing working capital of the Local Councils' Association for the next 12 months. The Association also maintains a positive current net asset position of €1,187,166 (2023: €1,348,011) ensuring that adequate headroom is available to cover present liabilities as well as short term obligations and commitments arising.

Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency transactions arise when the Local Councils' Association buys or sells goods/services whose price is denominated in a foreign currency, or incurs or settles liabilities, denominated in a foreign currency. The Local Councils' Association does not trade in any foreign currency transactions.

Interest Rate Risk

The Local Councils' Association operates bank accounts without any financing facilities. As a result, the Local Councils' Association is not exposed to cash flow interest rate risk on bank balances.

Market risks

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market prices. Market risk reflects interest rate risk, currency risk and other price risks. The Local Councils' Association is not exposed to Market Risks.

Prudent liquidity risk management implies maintaining sufficient cash and cash equivalents, the availability of funding through an adequate amount of credit facilities and the ability to close out market positions.

Report of the Local Government Auditor

To the Auditor General

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Local Councils' Association set out on pages 4 to 24 which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, and the statement of comprehensive income, 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 material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 31 December 2024, 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), and have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Councils Act Cap. 363, the Financial Regulations issued in terms of this Act, the Local Councils (Financial) Procedures 1996 (the "Legislation").

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 Association 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.

Responsibilities of those charged with governance for the financial statements

As described on page 3 the Executive Secretary and the members of the Association 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 are properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Legislation, and for such internal control as they 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 Executive Secretary and the members of the Association are responsible for assessing the Association'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 there is the intention to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Executive Secretary and the members of the Association are responsible for overseeing the Association'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.

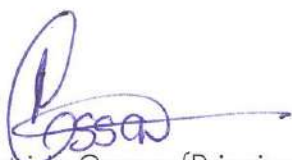
As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- 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 Association'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 Association'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 Association 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.

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 principal on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Patrizia Cassar.



Patrizia Cassar (Principal) for and on behalf of

Grant Thornton

Certified Public Accountants

Fort Business Centre
Triq L-Intornjatur, Zone 1
Central Business District
Birkirkara CBD1050
Malta

27 February 2025