



Editorial

Return to Normality

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Dear readers and authors of Xjenza Online, as Editor-in-Chief, I am very pleased to announce the release of the first issue of 2021 of Xjenza Online.

This issue of Xjenza Online marks the return to our usual publishing schedule which has experienced some undesired but uncontrollable disruptions and delays since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, in spite of all difficulties faced by the society, the journal demonstrated continuity in supporting the scientific endeavour in the Maltese Islands, particularly the one drawn on the local research expertise.

The issue opens with an important and timely study by Scerri and Borg on the influence of desalination plant effluent on shore macroinvertebrate assemblages. Unfortunately, rapid global population growth, misuse of water resources and the effects of climate change contribute to global water scarcity. One of the ways to circumvent this problem is desalination of sea water which, as this research reveals, impacts on shore biotic assemblages in the vicinity of the discharge point of hypersaline effluent.

The following article by Abela and Theuma provides a detailed insight on the GRAS method which allows for balancing and updating of Input-Output (I-O) tables and Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs) with positive and negative entries. The GRAS algorithm was then applied on the 2010 Macro SAM for Malta SAM including updated Rest of World account totals.

The issue concludes with an investigation by Saliba, Cortis and Madhloom on the relevance of risk management implementation throughout sport organizations. The authors analyzed the results of an empirical study conducted across all 47 youth academies in Malta and identified the main key hazards concerns, namely injuries, liability risk and inadequate facilities. The suggested key measures to avoid and minimize most risks are coaches' continuous professional development and the need of insurance policies to offer the ability to transfer risk.

To conclude, the Editorial Board of Xjenza Online would like to express our commitment to continue to serve the local professional scientific community, to publish high-quality original findings in a peer-reviewed environment, and to help early-career researchers to advance their scientific discourse in the community.

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