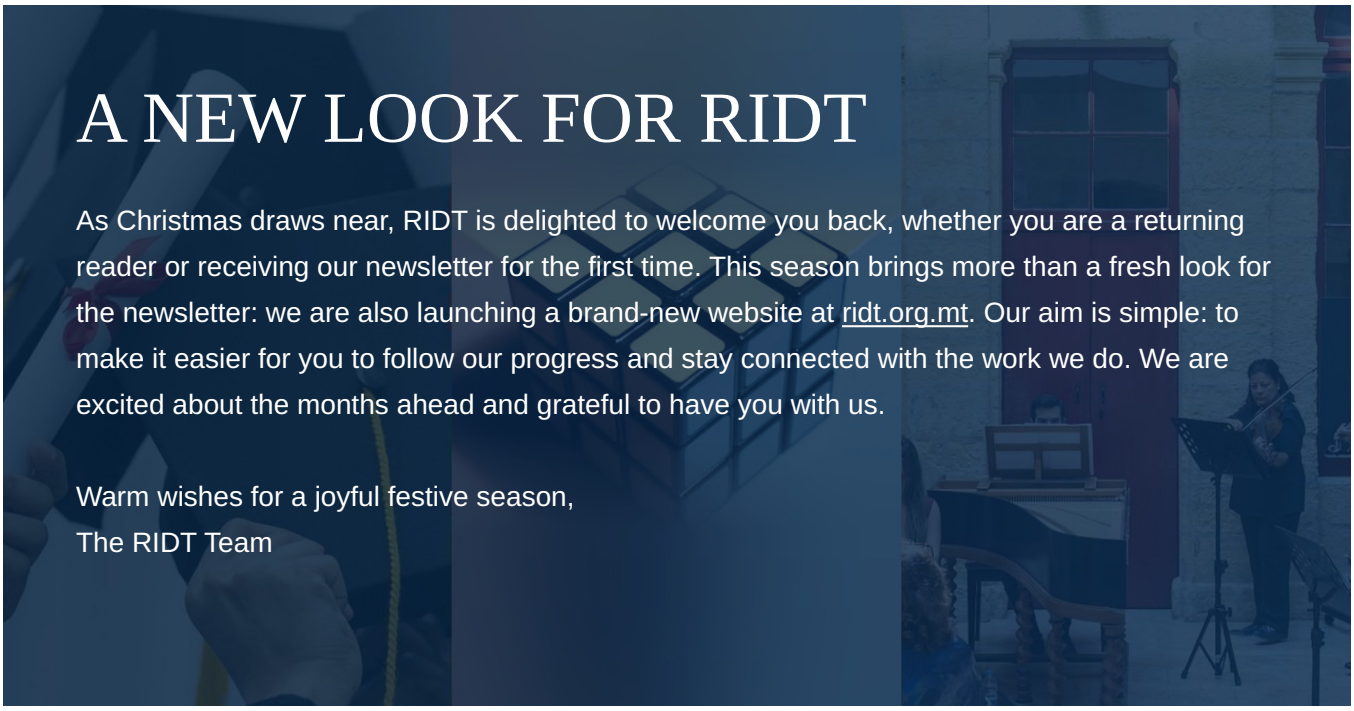
The University of Malta
Research, Innovation & Development Trust

NOVEMBER 2026



A NEW LOOK FOR RIDT

As Christmas draws near, RIDT is delighted to welcome you back, whether you are a returning reader or receiving our newsletter for the first time. This season brings more than a fresh look for the newsletter: we are also launching a brand-new website at ridt.org.mt. Our aim is simple: to make it easier for you to follow our progress and stay connected with the work we do. We are excited about the months ahead and grateful to have you with us.

Warm wishes for a joyful festive season,
The RIDT Team

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- A gift that keeps on giving: The University of Malta's Endowment Fund
- Overseas Conferences Grants for PhD students
- RIDT and APS Bank Partner to Support Malta's Premier Speed Cubing Competition
- Lidl Malta Donates €3,162 to RIDT to Advance Cancer Research Following Summer Cause Campaign
- Lidl Malta continues to support Medical Research at UM
- Running for Becs: €1,785 Donated to Ewing Sarcoma Research
- Festivals Malta Baroque Concert Makes Memories
- Europa Donna - When Breast Cancer Treatment Ends, The Journey Continues
- The Symphony Collection: a Tettiera collaboration
- Meet the new CEO
- Investi f'Dizzjunarju.mt

FOCUS

A gift that keeps on giving: The University of Malta's Endowment Fund

RIDT has launched a permanent institutional Endowment Fund, inviting donors to help secure the University of Malta's research future for generations to come. Rather than relying mainly on cyclical grants and short-term sponsorships, which can cause momentum to be lost between funding cycles, the Fund shifts towards long-term financial resilience: donations are preserved and invested, and only the annual returns are spent. This gives researchers stable, multi-year support to pursue ambitious projects, while donors know their gift keeps its real value and supports students, academics and discoveries for decades. The Fund will focus on pioneering research, attracting world-class talent, strengthening postgraduate research and encouraging university-industry collaboration, and it is overseen by a dedicated Investment Committee with regular reporting to donors.

> *"Unlike more traditional fundraising models, an endowment is designed to generate sustainable, long-term support. Scientific discovery and technological innovation rarely fit neatly into annual budget cycles. Serious research requires continuous investment over many years." - Wilfred Kenely (RIDT Senior Advisor)*



Read the full story here

GRANTS

Overseas Conferences Grants for PhD students



The Doctoral School announced the ninth call for Research, Innovation & Development Trust (RIDT) grants, which supported registered UM Ph.D. students who had transferred their studies in presenting their research at conferences overseas. The call was open to those presenting their findings through a first-author paper or poster, and covered 75% of eligible expenses plus the per diem allowance, up to a maximum of €1,750, reimbursed after the event. The application period closed on Saturday 31 October 2026.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION →

COLLABORATION

RIDT and APS Bank Partner to Support Malta's Premier Speed Cubing Competition



Speed cubing enthusiasts of all ages gathered in the historic Aula Magna at the University of Malta's Valletta Campus on Saturday, 26 September, for the highly anticipated WCA Maltese Championship 2026, in collaboration with RIDT and supported by APS Bank.

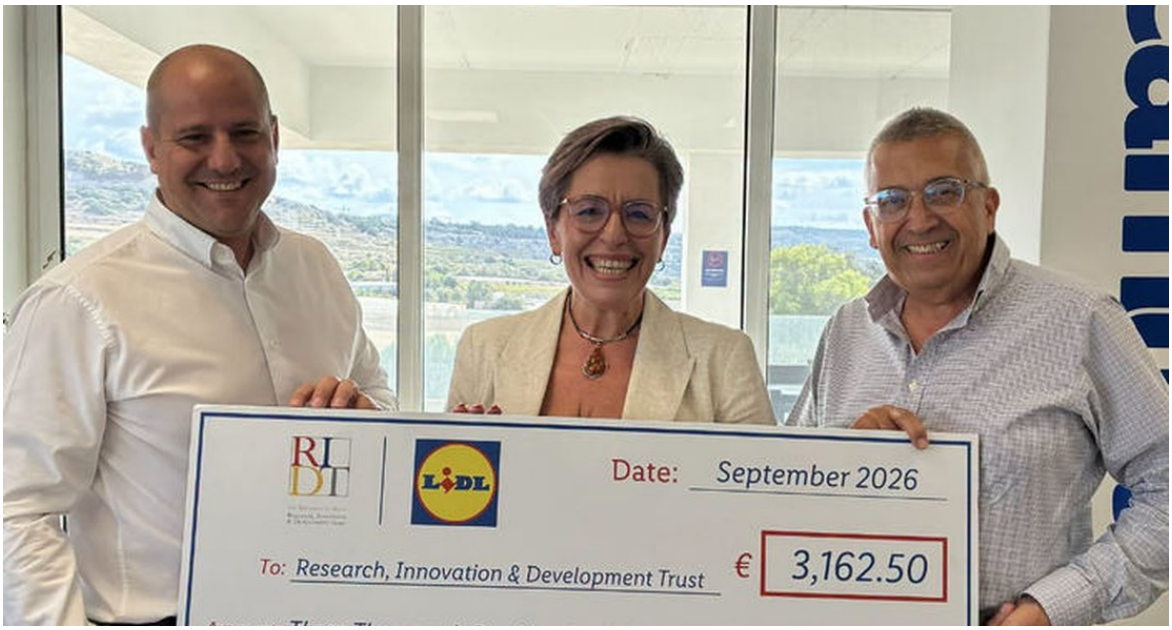
Speed cubing, the internationally recognised sport of solving puzzles like the 3x3x3 Rubik's Cube in the shortest possible time, blends mathematics, spatial awareness, pattern recognition and quick reflexes. RIDT chose to support this event as part of its commitment to intellectual engagement, innovation and community-driven initiatives.

Extraordinary demand filled the competition hall with competitors of every age and experience level, eight Maltese national records were broken, and a new Maltese Champion was crowned. This was more than a successful competition: it marked the beginning of a new era for cubing in Malta, and we are only getting started.

CHECK OUT THE MALTA CUBING ASSOCIATION PAGE →

DONATION

Lidl Malta Donates €3,162 to RIDT to Advance Cancer Research Following Summer Cause Campaign



Every donation to RIDT, helps fuel vital research in Malta, and LIDL's July Cien Sun campaign shows just how far a gesture can go. Between 6 and 19 July, shoppers picking up SPF essentials helped LIDL sell over 6,300 items, with €0.50 from each one going straight to RIDT, raising an impressive €3,162.50 for cancer research. As proud ongoing partners of RIDT, LIDL shows how businesses can support local science while raising awareness on important health topics, from sun safety in the summer to seasonal initiatives throughout the year. A big thank you to LIDL and to every customer across Malta and Gozo who made a difference simply by looking after their skin.

COLLABORATION

Lidl Malta continues to support Medical Research at UM



Following the success of last year's festive campaign, Lidl Malta and the Research, Innovation and Development Trust (RIDT) are joining forces once again to turn a seasonal favourite into vital funding for local medical research.

Starting 3 December 2026, Lidl Malta will donate €1.00 from every Classic hand-wrapped Panettone sold across its stores nationwide directly to RIDT.

PEOPLE

Running for Becs: €1,785 Donated to Ewing Sarcoma Research



Becs (Rebecca) Zammit Lupi, daughter of Marisa Ford and Darren Zammit Lupi, passed away in 2021 at the age of 15, after a battle with Ewing Sarcoma, a very rare cancer. Every year, her dear friend Tommy Wallbank runs the number of kilometres matching her age, and this year, which would have been Becs' 21st birthday, his run raised €1,785 for RIDT. The donation supports Ewing Sarcoma research at the University of Malta. On Thursday 8 October 2026, Tommy and Marisa presented the donation to the Rector, Prof. Frank Bezzina, who is also Chairman of RIDT. The Rector announced that RIDT will match the amount donated for the same cause, and warmly encouraged further donations.

READ MORE →

YOU TOO CAN SUPPORT THIS RESEARCH →

COLLABORATION

Festivals Malta Baroque Concert Makes Memories



‘Love, Magic & Mischief: Music from the English Baroque Theatre’—a Festivals Malta concert performed by the ViBE Collective at Malta Society of Arts on the 11th of October 2026, raised money towards RIDT’s ‘Making Memories’ campaign. Donations by attendees amounted to €165 euros which RIDT will be putting towards research in Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

In Malta, statistics indicate that this condition is becoming one of the greatest public health challenges, driven by an aging and growing population. In 2021, the Malta Medical Journal estimated that 7,988 people (approx. 1.54% of the total population) were living with dementia; a figure which is projected to nearly triple, reaching 21,523 cases by the year 2060. Giving in celebration results in a constant trickle of investment in the development of new treatments in this field.

DONATE TO “MAKING MEMORIES” →

DONATION

Europa Donna - When Breast Cancer Treatment Ends, The Journey Continues



Francesca Lanni, President of Europa Donna, presenting donation to Wilfred Kenely, RIDT, in support of the third PhD scholarship in Breast Cancer research.

The Hilda Schembri Memorial Lecture, organised by Europa Donna Malta on 15 October 2026 at the University of Malta Valletta Campus, brought together ambassadors, public authorities, doctors, nurses, breast cancer survivors and members of the public. It provided an opportunity to learn from the speakers, exchange experiences and connect with people working towards better breast cancer care, with discussions highlighting the challenges many patients continue to face after treatment and the importance of ongoing support and follow-up care.

Europa Donna Malta works to support patients and their families in practical ways, including counselling and transport to treatment, while also contributing to breast cancer research.

READ MORE →

COLLABORATION

The Symphony Collection: a Tettiera collaboration



This Christmas, Tettiera's exclusive 2026 holiday range pays tribute to the timeless grandeur of Malta's majestic Royal Opera House and Prof. Vicki Ann Cremona's prize-winning research on the theatre's hidden scenery. By choosing a thoughtful gift from The Symphony Collection this Christmas, you can contribute towards empowering RIDT to champion pioneering researchers at the University of Malta. Because some stories deserve an encore!

CHECK OUT THE HOLIDAY RANGE →

MEET THE TEAM

Meet the new CEO



CLAUDETTE BUTTIGIEG
Chief Executive Officer, RIDT

"For 14 years, the Research Innovation and Development Trust (RIDT) has built a strong legacy of connecting the community with high-calibre research at the University of Malta. With Wilfred Kenely at the helm, RIDT sparked a vital cultural shift, proving that research is a shared responsibility.

As I step into the role of CEO, our path forward is clear. We must elevate research into the primary driver of Malta's growth. This demands a fresh impetus and stronger partnerships between RIDT, the University of Malta and all the different stakeholders of our society. Together, we will champion innovation and secure the resources needed to ensure Malta thrives in tomorrow's world."

HELP US SUPPORT RESEARCH

Investi f'Dizzjunarju.mt



Il-lingwi qatt ma huma lesti. Lanqas id-dizzjunarji.

Dizzjunarju.mt qed jikber kuljum, ftit ftit!

Languages are never finished. Neither are dictionaries.

Dizzjunarju.mt is growing every day, little by little!

Żviluppat mid-Dipartiment tal-Malti fl-Università ta' Malta, id-dizzjunarju diġitali uffiċjali ta' Malta joffri definizzjonijiet bil-Malti u bl-Ingliż, gwidi għall-pronunzja, għeruq tal-kliem, forom tal-plural, etimoloġija, eżempji mill-ħajja ta' kuljum u espressjonijiet idjomatiċi; barra minn hekk, jiġi aġġornat kontinwament biex jirrifletti l-lingwaġġ modern, il-qwiel tradizzjonali u s-suġġerimenti tal-utenti.

Developed by The Department of Maltese at the University of Malta, Malta's official digital dictionary offers Maltese and English definitions, pronunciation guides, word roots, plurals, etymology, real-life examples, and idiomatic expressions; and is continuously being updated to reflect modern speech, traditional sayings, and user suggestions.

AGĦTI DONAZZJONI / DONATE →

The University of Malta
Research, Innovation & Development Trust
Website: ridt.org.mt

Copyright (C) 2026 The University of Malta Research Innovation and Development Trust (RIDT). All rights reserved.
RIDT (Research, Innovation and Development Trust), University of Malta, Valletta Campus, St Paul's Street, Valletta