

# Global Biking Initiative



GBI Malta

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## GBI Malta officially launches its charity campaign!

GBI, or Global Biking Initiative, is a fast-growing, worldwide cycling community with the mission to raise fund for charities in more than twenty countries. For the second year running participants from Malta will be joining the main event – GBI Europe – for an 800 km bike ride from Milan to Munich. Spanning 7 days in early July, the route will see all seven local participants – not all Maltese, mind you! – climbing mountains and crossing lakes to reach their destination.

But this is no simple bike tour! GBI's mission statement is "We cycle for charity!" and this is exactly what the Maltese team, called "Luzzu Lovers", is seeking to do.

GBI Malta has in fact teamed up with Caritas Malta to raise funds to refurbish a section of the premises at the San Blas Therapeutic Community, which offers a complete rehabilitation programme for individuals suffering from substance abuse and addiction. On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, members of the team visited the rehabilitation centre and met with members of both the Caritas team and the community itself. Marica Mizzi, Caritas Malta's PRO and main fund-raiser, welcomed the "GBIans" and gave a tour of the facilities, explaining the ongoing and future projects, as well as the refurbishment GBI Malta is aiming to support.

The team will be organising several fundraising events open to the general public, many of which will also be aimed at promoting sound mental health. Caritas Malta offers several schemes aimed at helping individuals going through a rough period in their lives and GBI Malta is determined to showcase these initiatives and the benefits they bring to the more vulnerable members of the local population.

The physical benefits of cycling cannot be excluded, but GBI goes the extra mile – we want to contribute to the local community. We cycle for charity.

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Members of the “Luzzu Lovers” team from GBI Malta at the San Blas Therapeutic Community. From left to right: Luke Cachia, Alexandra Londoño Salinas, Emanuel Mangion, John Gabarretta, Marica Mizzi (Caritas Malta) and Sylvan Borg. The other members of the team, who unfortunately were abroad on the day, are Norbert Brincat and Albert Gambina.



The team joined a brief tour of the premises and got a closer look at what initiatives are ongoing and the refurbishment they will be supporting.